

ELECTION '97: no one's pulling our strings

THE TABLOID

Castro's hold on America's rich THE TABLOID

50 years of British style

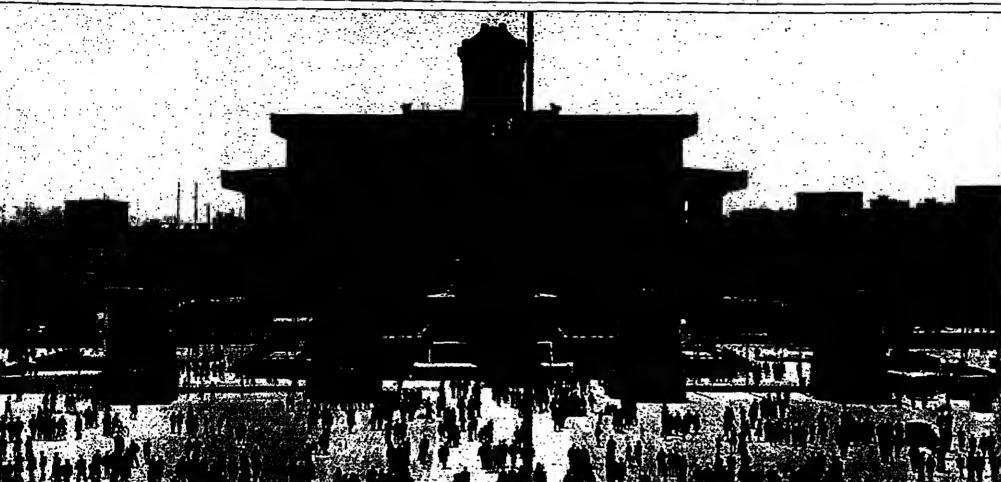
FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1997.

POLITICS New York's luvvies for

Labour pages



40p (ER 45p)



The flag flaps; the crowd shrugs

WEATHER: Bright start, then overcast

Every day at sunrise in Peking, a large crowd gathers around the flagpole in Tiananmen Square to see the flag being hoisted, accompanied by the dramatic strains of the Chinese national anthem

played on loud speakers.

But at 7am Thursday, the regular flag-raising ceremony was transformed into a subtle disclosure. Upon reaching the top of the flagpole, the bright red flag with its yellow stars immediately began falling back to half mast. A moment of con-fusion followed, then the meaning dawned on peo-ple. "Ah, I understand, Deng must be dead." said one man, as much to himself as to his three companions on the windswept open square. Thus did a handful of China's 1.3 billion people learn that Deng Xiaoping had died the night before. In Tiananmen Square, word spread quickly through the crowd. A few people seemed genuine-

ly stunned, but more seemed unsurprised. Those old enough to remember the death in 1976 of Mao Tse-tung could not help but see the contrast.

"When Mao died, you absolutely had to look like you were really distraught. If you didn't you would run into all sorts of problems," said one

mid-ranking Peking government official .
One illustration of how much things have changed in China since then was the response of a young woman who, noon hearing the news at the flag-raising, put on a display of mock weepin nd sobbing before breaking into a wide smile.

After Deng, pages 12, 13 Essay, page 16

Bridgewater three to go free

Reprieve after 19 years for men charged with killing paper boy

Patricia Wynn Davies

The three men jailed for the murder of the newspaper-boy the killing of the 13-year-old boy, shot dead after apparent-Carl Bridgewater are set to walk free today, bringing to an end a 19-year campaign by

their supporters. In a hastily convened hearing. he In a nashly convenied in Lonon, three appeal judges are expected to declare the convictions unsafe or to grant the men hail pending a final ruling, Han I llowing a sudden decision by 230 at it will not contest the men's

Michael Hickey, 34, and Vingraphia.

Dis. Ppeal hearing, originally set for cent Hickey, 42, who were consins. James Robinson 62

The men have always insist ed that they were innocent of ly intercupting a burglary at an isolated Midlands farmhouse in cence, claiming the admission

The decision will put the case alongside those of the Guildford Four, the Birmingham Six and Stefan Kiszko as one of the most serious miscarriages of justice in British

and Patrick Molloy were convicted in February 1979 largely on a confession by Molloy, who was convicted of the lesser charge of manslaughter. He continued to insist on his inno-

had been beaten out of him, until his death in 1981. The three remained in prison despite eight separate police inquiries and a lengthy appeal in 1988 and 1989. But the campaign to prove their innocence, led by Anne Whelan, the mother of Michael Hickey, never

took up the case in 1980, publishing the book Murder at the Farm: Who Killed Carl Bridgewater? in 1986.

Ann Skett, mother of Vincent Hickey, said last night: "We just screamed and danced."

Mr Foot said last night that Lord Justice Russell, who presided over the unsuccessful 1988 apocal, "should consider re-signing tonight". The men's solicitor, Jim Nichol, said last night that there was "powerful fresh evidence of a false confession." An appeal hearing was originally scheduled for 8 April, afcousins, James Robinson, 62, wavered Paul Foot, a journalist,

ter Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, agreed to refer the case back for a second time to the Court of Appeal to 26 July

Carl was killed with a shotgun when he stumbled across a burglary at Yew Tree Farm near Stourbridge, West Midlands. Mr Nichol said the false con-

fession shown to Molloy was a lying confession shown to him to make him confess. "I am de-lighted but angry that they have spent 18-and-a-half years in prison for a crume they did not commit. I fully expect my clients

to walk out of court tomorrow free men.

George Irving, a leading figure io the Bridgewater Four Support Group, said: "... it seems that the Home Office have decided to throw in the towel so that as little of this story gets told in open court as possible."

It was understood the men had all been moved to Brixton last night to spend what could be their final night behind bars. Once cleared, they can be expected to receive up compen-sation up to £200,000 each. Following the unsuccessful

vived following the disbandment of the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad, whose members included the detective who took the crucial Molloy confession. But in 1993, the then Home Secretary Keoneth Clarke refused to refer the case back to the Court of Appeal for

1988/89 appeal the case was re-

a secood time. Two pieces of evidence are largely responsible for the case's latest referral. First, a set of unidentified fingerprints on the bicycle used by Carl Bridgewater which was not disclosed at

it into a pig-sty. Their existence only came to light in 1994 as part of a police inquiry into the case. Secoodly, it has also emerged that Molloy had not been formally arrested on suspicion of the Bridgewater mur-der when he made his alleged confession. The officer who took the confession was Detective Constable John Perkins. later disciplined over a 1986 case involving allegations of fabricated statements. Two former jurors have also publicly distanced themselves from the guilty verdicts.

£137m dowry for museums renaissance

David Lister and Stephen Goodwin

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The National Lottery yesterday handed out a bonanza of £137m to 23 major museums and gal-leries ranging from the Tate Gallery in London to a new National Museum of Football in

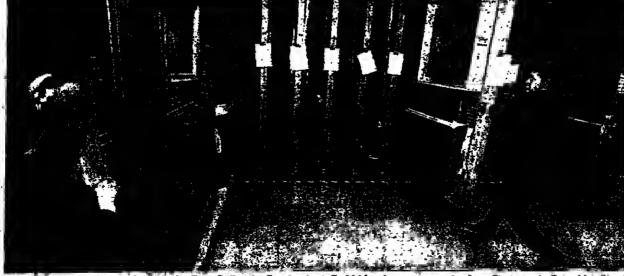
Preston. It left the institutions celehrating a moment as historic as the time in 1753 when a previous lottery funded the building of the British Museum.

The grants, which were being hailed as heralding a renais-

sance for museums, were carefully and strategically allocated by the Heritage Lottery Fund under Lord Rothschild, sensitive to past criticism that the lottery had favoured high art and the capital at the expense of popniar culture and the regions. Lord Rothschild insisted on

acknowledging the widest possible definition of museum cottore. With an almost postmodernist approach, he saw that the money flowed to good causes as diverse as displaying more of the history of British art, fathoming the origins of the decerations on canal longboats, and saving millions of feet of priceless film and television

material from decomposition. The Tate Gallery in London, receiving £18.7m was able to configure expansion of its Millbank site and pledge to bring 250 pictures out of storage and on in display — Gainsboroughs, Hogarths, Hockneys et al. It will



also have an additional entrance with a grand staircase linking the old and new galleries.

Further along the cultural spectrum a £5.7m grant was approved in principle for a National Museum of Football. It will be located at Preston North End's Deepdale stadium - the oldest ground in the Football League, founded in 1888.

The National Waterways Museum at Gloucester received a £1.4m grant to belp improve galleries, education, research and visitor service. Thirty rare items of "roses and castles" ware will go on display for the first time.

A narrowboat, decorated with brightly coloured roses and fantasy castles is the classic image of the canals of England. But the origins of the boatmen's art remain oncertain, and the

award will help fund research. Three museums in Manchester will share £35m with £15m going towards a project to extend Manchester Art Gallery. The increased space will enable a dramatic increase from 5 to 50 per cent of the amount of the collection that can be shown. Manchester Museum received £12m and the city's Museum of

£8.8m towards its expansion. Elsewhere, the Welsh Slate Museum in Llanberis was awarded £L6m, and the Museum of Scottish Country Life received £8m. Museums in London which received support include the Wallace Collection

(£7.2m) and the National Por-trait Gallery (£11.9m). Almost £14m is being given to the British Film Institute to enable it to record and conserve a vast backlog of uncatalogued -material. The National Film and Television Archive holds over 300,000 titles dating back to Science and Industry received

rently preserves nearly 3 million feet of decomposing film each year, the acquisition of nitrate film, safety film and television has outstripped its cataloguing and inspection resources.

the BFI, said the lottery injection would go a long way to al-lay fears that "aspects of our precious film and televisioo heritage might be lost forever". Lord Rothschild, chairman of

Jeremy Thomas, chairman of

life back into museum lungs will be a great achievement for the National Lottery. This country has a spectacular inheritance both in terms of museums and the collections inside them. By the end of the century we would like to have helped to sweep out the nation's attics and cellars and to enable the treasures of this country to be accessible not only to the people of the United Kingdom but also to the world through developments in Information Technology." Loyd Grossman, chairman of

the Campaign for Museums, said last night: "I am delighted. With the help of this £137m and the £45m of other funding that will be invested in these projects, many of our local authorities, universities and national institutions will be able to realise their vision of serving and educating the public as we move

into the new century."
It is a far cry from 1753 when a national lottery funded the building of the British Museum. That lottery raised £101,952, seven shillings and six pence. And in those less egalitarian times the museum was open only to "the learned and curious". It was a few more years before the privilege was extended to the public.



the Heritage Lottery Fund hailed the awards as enabling "amuch needed renaissance for museums of the United King-1895. But although the BFI cur- dom." He went on: "Breathing

QUICKLY

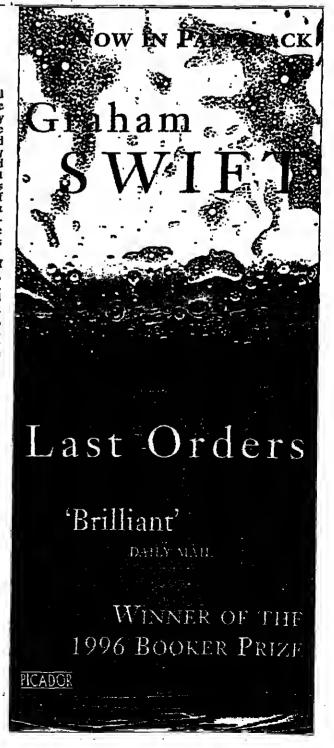
am at bay Bearin is becoming a nation of Mysim haters. Over the last 20 year, "islamophobia" has become "more explicit, more exreme and more dangerous". coording to a report. Page 3

Railway's free ride Thousands of commuters were offered free tickets yesterday after their journeys to work were disrupted when a privatised train company made 71 drivers

Palestine torture At least 10 people have been tortured to death while in the custody of the Palestinian security forces since they began to move into Gaza and the West Bank in 1994.

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Woman in hospital after fresh outbreak of E.coli

A woman is seriously ill in an Edinburgh hospital in a fresh outbreak of the E. coli 0157 food-poisoning bacteria which has claimed 20 lives in Scotland in recent months. Five people in the Scottish Borders have been confirmed as

Five people in the Scottish Borders have been confirmed as having the bacteria, although only one is in hospital.

Tom Skinner, the secretary of Borders Heelth Board said the woman, who has not been named, is being treated at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. He said that two of the cases appeared to be unrelated but the other three, including the woman in hospital, had ettended a traditional Scottish support in the village of Roberton on 7 February. Health chiefs say they went consone who was at the 7 February. Health chiefs say they want anyone who was at the supper and who may have experienced symptoms to entend a special clinic, although, at this stage, the source of the outbreak is not known, and investigations are continuing.

Trawler skipper walks free

Joseph O Connor, the operator of a trawler which sank with the loss of its six-crew, walked free yesterday after the Court of Appeal quashed his three-year sentence for manslaughter.

Three judges, headed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham,

ruled that the Crown's amendment of the charges on the 27th day of the trial at Bristol Crown Court last year rendered his conviction "unsafe". Originally Mr O'Connor, 44, from Plymouth, was charged with causing the deaths by gross negligence of the six named members of the crew. It emerged during the trial that the jury would only be able to convict if they found that all six would have died when the *Pescado* sank off the coast of Cornwall.

A new charge was added which alleged the manslaughter of a person unknown. This allowed the jury to find him guilty if it was shown that at least one person would have died because of a failure to provide adequate safety equipment about the record which the

to provide adequate safety equipment aboard the vessel which the prosecution alleged was "unseaworthy and unstable". Lord Bingham said the amendment "may well have worked injustice on

Lord Chancellor goes to court



Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, is being taken to court over the controversial hike in court fees introduced last month. Lord Justice Simon Brown, the judge in charge of judicial review cases has directed an expedited hearing of the case, believed to be the first of its

kind, on 5 March. The challenge is being brought by former businessman John Witham. 50, who is on income support and cannot afford a

£500 fee to issue a writ for libel. The new fee rules, brought in on 15 January, increased the maximum writ fee from £120 to a maximum of £500 and aholished the exemption for people on income support. If Mr Witham succeeds, Lord Mackay may have to pay hack fees collected since the rules came into effect. Patricia Wynn Davies

Referendum Party takes Tory votes

Up to a fifth of the people who voted for the Conservatives in the last general election could vote for the Referendum Party this time, according to a new poll of 1,000 previous Conservative voters. Fiftyone per cent would still vote Tory, 13 per cent Labour and 4 per cent Liberal Democrat, if there were an election tomorrow. That would leave the Conservatives with just under three-quarters of their vote at the 1992 general election. James Capel, the City investment bank who organised the poll, has also increased the odds on a 100-seat Labour landslide from 20 per cent to 30 per cent.

Diane Co

Man held in Billie-Jo investigation

A 36-year-old man was being questioned yesterday in connection with the murder of Billie-Jo Jenkins, the 13-year-old girl found beaten to death in her back garden in Hastings on Saturday. The police stressed that charges were not imminent and all inquiries were continuing.

Gangster jailed for life

An American gangster who ordered the contract execution of accountant David Wilson was jailed for life yesterday.

Michael Austin, 41, was found guilty, by a unanimous verdict, of the murder of the 47-year-old father of two, shot in the head by masked gunmen at his luxury home near Chorley, Lancashire, in March 1992, while his wife and two daughters were held hostage. Austin, of Fort Lee, New Jersey, pleaded not guilty. During the five-week trial amid heightened security at Liverpool Crown Court the prosecution tuld how he masterminded a multi-million pound cigarette fraud. Mr Wilson, used as a middle-man by Austin, was murdered on Austin's orders after he spoke to police. The verdict came as Mr Wilson's widow, Barbara, lay on a life-support machine. She died last night, reportedly after a brain haemorrhage

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Nick Ross: Never found his way into the BBC's heavyweight elite of radio anchormen

Don't call Nick Ross – he's hanging up his microphone

lick Ross is quitting his popular morning phone—
im programme on Radio 4 after 1D years, having never got the call to become one of the ing never got the call to become one of the ing never got the call to become one of the ingreeous after their views after than Londoners. corporation's élite group of heavyweight anchormen.

The final straw for the 49-year-old presenter - who alred his grievances at a meeting of BBC executives on Tuesday – Is believed to have come when Peter Sissons was asked to take over his slot during the forth-coming general election torangaign, when it will link-up with television for a series of 17 bi-media debates involving leading politicians.

Call Nick Ross had also been rumoured to be high on a list of programmes which are to be axed or drastically revamped in a series of sweeping changes by Radio 4's new controller, James Boyle, and his fresh-ty hired squad of thirtysomething commissioning ed-

The show has made headlines, notoriously when an immate at a high-security prison called in to sym-pathise with the former Prison Service chief, Derek Lewis, sacked by the Home Secretary, Michael

teners with regional accents were more likely to get

But Mr Ross - who also presents Crimewatch UK on BBC1 - is being careful not to alienate his employers as he prepares to bow out. Diplomatically, he stated yesterdey that he had been thinking hard about his future since December when the programme celebrated its 10th anniversary.

"It is a huge privilege to chair a phone-in for the Ra-

"It is a huge privilege to chair a phone-in for the Radio 4 audience. But a decade is a long time. I need to progress, the programme needs to progress and the network needs to progress. I wanted to leave on e high, it's a great institution, one to which I"Il now listen and - if I get through - call into."

Mr Boyle _ who has been dubbed "McBirt" because of his Scotline origins and alleged devotion to BBC director-general John Birt's allegedly brutal style of management - paid tribute to Boss. "Nick will always."

management - paid tribute to Ross. "Nick will always be a valued contributor to Radio 4." he said.

The Belgian for whom fame was not enough

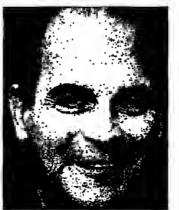
It was a bitter-sweet day for David Suchet yesterday, when he won e prestigious best actor eward but revealed that his much-loved characterisation of Hercule Poirot had been given the chop.

For once the Belgian detective was outflanked, after ITV executives ruled that the moustachloed crimebuster had had his day.

Suchet, 5D (right), whose inter-pretation of the fastidious detective in Poirot stitl earns him 100 fan letters e week, said: "I tove him. I would love to carry on playing him. I wish I was, but it looks as though the curtain has come down on that."

He edded: "I think Poirot is such an easy man to live with, and I like his quirks. I like his fastidiousness and his tittle eccentricities. I never get bored with him at

The makers of Poirot, LWT, confirmed yesterday that it would come to an end after the sixth series, which has already been filmed, is shown. It is expected to go out later this year.



The ector revealed the news on the day he took the London Theatre Critics' Award for best ector, an honour he narrowly missed last Sunday at the Laurence Otivier awards.

He had been tipped to win for his powerful performance opposite Dame Diane Rigg in the wildly-acclaimed production of Who's Afraid of Virginie Woolf? at the Aldwych theatre, but it went to Antony Sher for Stanley at the

National Janet McTeer, however, won best actress for her role in The Doll's House — having also taken the title at the Oliviers. Marianne Macdonald Mother refused to accept son's death

A mother's determination meant that her son was alive and well yesterday, after doctors had told her and her husband to take him home to die.

When heart experts told Joshue Law's parents, Janet and John, they could not do anything for him, Mrs Law refused to accept this and put out an appeal on local radio. Specialists at Birmingham Children's Hospital were alerted end offered to hetp.

Joshua who was born at Rotherham District General Hospital, hed e serious heart abnormality and had been taken to Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds, there hie parents say they were told there was nothing doctors there could do. But in Birmingham, a £13,000

open-heart operation was carried out. He was given the all clear 72 hours later. He will need a second operation but will be able to live a

"I knew there must be something that could be done, you can't give up" said Mrs Law. A spokeswoman for Killingbeck Hospital said: "Whatever decision was taken was a clinical decision."

Screening for diseases can damage your health

Screening for diseases could seriously damage your health, according to the *British Medical Journal*. Those who receive positive results may suffer needlessly high levels of anxiety, while those who screen negatively erroneously believe they can maintain their unboat the life tides. their unhealthy lifestyles, it warned.

People found in workplace screening programmes to have high blood pressure took more time off sick, had increased anxiety and and saw themselves as less healthy, regardless of whether their hypertension warranted treatment,

In cholesterol screening, several studies have shown a reduction in deaths from heart diseases but a small increase in total mortality. This, it is suggested, is because men who know they are more at risk from heart disease may take other risks as well.

The authors warn that those who receive negative results may also ignore future consequences of their behaviour: "For example, those who screen negative for cancer may feel safe continuing

SCIENCE

Bookies cut odds on Nessie

Bookmakers yesterday slashed the odds un the Loch Ness monster emerging from its lair by the end of 1997. News of the discovery uf a deep underwater cavern in the loch sent Ladhrokes into a panic, cutting its odds on the discovery of the monster this year by a

third.

George Edwards, a 44-year-old Nessie-watcher from
Drunnadrochit, on the shore of the Loch, revealed yesterday that
he had known about the cavern for a week. In the topsy-turvy
world of pre-millennium, pre-election Britain, the hookies are
taking no chances and responded as if Edwards had happened
upon a footprint of the monster itself, slashing the odds from 15t1 to a measly 100-1. Last night an Aberdeen underwater survey
company offered to spend £10,000 on filming the cavern, using
technology devised for the North Sea oil industry.

lan Burrell



EMPLOYMENT

Growth in temporary jobs

The number of temporary workers unable to lind permanent jobs has grown by a half since the 1992 General Election, according to an analysis of official figures by the House of Commons library. The research, supplied to Peter Hain, Labour's employment spokesman, shows there are now mure than half a million 'reluctant" temporary workers.

The data reveals that temporary employment as a whole has risen by a third, to 1,586,000, with increases of mote than a half in East Anglia and London. The analysis also reveals that half of all claimants who leave the unemployment register fur a job are back on the dole within a year. **Barrie Clement**

HEALTH

A lifetime paying price of poverty

Wealth and social class determine your health throughout your life, with the less well off particularly susceptible to heart disease.
Two studies in today's British Medical Journal call fur action to redress inequalities in health after "many years of inaction".

The first study, carried ont in Glasgow found that the risk of heart attacks increased sharply with increasing deprivation while the chance of reaching bospital alive decreased and the chance of

dying during the ettack increased. The other study carried out in the west of Scotland found that the lower your social cless the more likely you are to be heavier, smoke cigarettes, end have bronchitis and angina

Manual workers were elso shorter with worse lung function and less likely to have never smoked.

UTILITIES

British Gas complaints falling

Complaints against British Gas are on the decrease for the first time in months, the Gas Consumers' Council disclosed yesterday. But the January figures – which showed an overall decrease of 6 per cent in complaints which consumers had already tried to resolve themselves - followed an unprecedented number of complaints during 1996.



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Revolt over race raises ghosts of the Left Bank

John Lichfield

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For months there has been talk of a new French revolution, a rebellion of the masses against the failures and schemes of the promoted at a second of the se élite. Instead we have a revolt of the elite against the masses. Or more accurately, a passionate protest of the Le Monde-reading classes against the direction the masses might be

where the man was a second of the most state of the first led by the ultra-right. L. 100 the above states have been It could happen only in the the constant of the lapting the highest the lapting the highest the highes France and it is, in many ways, to the great credit of France that and the decrease of a state of the adding it should be so. It may be, however, that the greatest short-term beneficiary will be the cause of perversely - Jean Marie Le Pen's Front National.

. The French intelligentsia unflatteringly labelled in Britain the chattering classes - have mobilised in the last week on a scale, and with an intensity of purpose, not seeo in years.

An avalanche of petitions, isned by thousands of people, has engulfed the French government Most of the signatories belong vaguely to the centre-left, but by no means all. Many are previously politically inactive. All declare a willnguess to go to jail rather than obey a proposed new law against illegal immigration (no such penalty is actually envisaged, but no matter).

The signatories range from the internationally celebrated. such as Catherine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert, Jeanne Moreau, Bertrand Tavernier to the proudly obscure. One petition is entitled "121 people with names difficult to pronounce". Another is called the appeal of the unknowns of

Sauveterre-de-Rouergue". Although their notional target is the clumsy, new immigration law, due to be finalised next week, their fundamental. objective is clear: to make a ringing declaration against the ultra-right, xenophobic Froot National, following its elecin toral triumph in Vitrolles, near – Marseilles earlier this month.

against a France afflicted by the gangrene of the extreme-right."

The centre-right government of the Prime Minister Alain Juppe has responded in the way it generally responds to determined protest. It has given ground and hopes the problem will go away. It has agreed to scrap the most contentious clause in the new bill: a requirement that French citizens

The theatre director, Arihave abruptly awoken, spoiling ane Mnouchkine, said: "We for a fight. The result in Vinolles are witnessing something very shocked them; the immigra-beautiful. A moral revolt tion law gave them a ready shocked them; the immigramade cause (no matter that it amounted to a tighter rewording nf a law introduced by

the Socialists 15 years ago).

President Chirac, a wily reader of the national political mood, is said to be deeply concerned about the consequences right coalition in next year's parliamentary elections. The Socialist Party leader, Lionel housing certain categories of Jospin, ignored the protests at



Directing the action: A press conference held by film directors opposing the immigration law

foreigners should inform the authorities when the visitors move on. (This, it was claimed, would. racist police spies).

The government concession has been contemptuously rejected as insufficient. The petitions - 45 major ones in Paris to date and scores more from the provinces - are still piling . ologists, graphic designers, pho-A large demonstration of people in expensive coats is planned in Paris tomorrow.

The French intelligentsia. The present campaign, with its depressed by the betrayals and direct appeal to break the law, failures of Mitterraudism, had has been compared to a petition fallen into a kind of apolitical circulated in 1960 by Jean-Paul

first, but is now huffing and puffing to catch up with his own po-

tential troops.

It all began on Wednesday of last week when 59 movie directors published the first petition. They were rapidly followed by writers, lawyers and journalists. The movement burst into flames on Sunday with the presentation of a petition up: from statisticians, archae- from 402 actors, including such monstres socrés as Deneuve, tographers, carema, owners... Moreau, Huppert, Miou-Miou.

Petitions are a French traditioo going back to the Dreyfus case at the turn of the century. trance in recent years. They Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir,

calling on French conscripts to desert rather than be posted to the war in Algeria.

however, the leaders of the present revolt are mostly young and up-and-coming and not linked to any specific party or ideology. Like Mr Tavernier, they are deeply French but also citizens of a cultural and commercial world sons frontières: precisely the world that fills the potential FN voters, and many

other French people, with dread. By seizing on the immigration bill as their cause, they are vul-nerable to the standard accusation of the Front National: that the intellectual élite is more concerned about foreigners than the French. The immigration bill, though badly drafted and much amended back and forth, is not the Draconian instrument the petitioners complain of:

Out in the suburbs beyond the périphérique motorway, illegal immigration is a genuine problem, for French citizens and legitimate immigrants alike. Nothing in the protesters' rhetoric recognises such a le-gitimate anxiety. Unlike the intellectuals of the 1960s, they risk aligning themselves not with a romanticised French proletariat, but against a demonised, white working class.

In the tactical, short term, Jean-Marie Le Pen has every reason to smile. Just when the economy and jobless figures appeared to be looking op, the petitions have placed immigration at the centre of the political debate. They have also severely restricted the room for anti-Front manoeuvres of Messrs Chirac and Juppé.

In the longer run, however, the protest is a healthy reminder of the strong attachment to humanist values in France. Vitrolles was a warning of the FN's strength. The speed with which the petitioo brush fire moved from the arts through the professions, and out into the provinces, is a reminder of its ultimate weakness.



Intellectual inspiration: Jean-Paul Sartre's petition to persuade conscripts not to fight in Algeria in 1960 is regarded as the model for the petitions drawn up this year

British found to be a nation of Muslim haters

Britain is becoming a nation of Muslim-haters. Over the last 20 years, Isat lamophobia - a word coined to express the dread or hatred of Islam and Muslims - has become "more explicit, more extreme and more dangerous" in this country, according to a report published next

> The Runnymede Trust, an independent think-tank on race-relations which last year set up a Commission on British Muslims and Islamophobia to conduct the first investigation of its kind, has identified seven "tell-tale features" of anti-Muslim prejudice.

It highlights the dangers of such

attitudes on individuals and society, and demands action.

"Islamophobic discourse, sometimes blatant but frequently subtle and coded, is part of the fabric of everyday life in modern Britain, in much the same ways that anti-Semitic discourse was taken for granted earlier in the century," according to the consultation paper, a draft of which has been leaked exclusively to. The Independent.

The national epidemic of anti-Muslim sentiment mutes moderate voices within Muslim communities, driving them into the hands of extemists. Islamophobia is feeding. Westophobic opinion, according to the report.

Members of the commission in-

Professor Akbar Ahmed, a Cam-bridge don and Britain's leading Muslim academic; Dr Richard

Stone, chair of the Jewish Council for Racial Equality; and Ian Harg-reaves, editor of New Statesman. Islamophobia, a dual "demonisa tion" of the one million Muslims at

home and abroad, is largely blamed on the the promulgation of "prejudiced and antagonistic comments. mostly subtle but sometimes blatant and crude" in the media. "Where the media lead, many will follow," writes Professor Gordon Conway, vicechancellor of the University of Sussex, who chairs the commission. The first of the seven features of

clude the Bishop of London, Richard islamphobia is that Muslim cultures Chartres; Rabbi Julia Neuberger, are seen as "monolithic" and "unchanging", "intolerant of pluralism and dispute".

As a consequence of such oversimplification, criticisms in the British media of countries such as Iraq, Iran or Saudi Arabia are understood as "coded attacks" on Muslims in places such as Bradford, Birmingham or Tower Hamlets.

Claims that Muslim cultures are wholly different from other cultures comprise the second feature. Stereotypes cited in the report include that Muslim cultures mistreat women, whereas other religions and cultures have outgrown patriarchy, sexism and misogyny, and that they are fundamentalist in their interpretation

Set up a BT 0800 number for free before March 8th.

of scriptures, but analogous literalism is unknown in other faiths.

Third, Islam is often seen as implacably threatening. Islamophobic discourse mentions Islam as a successor to nazism and communism. and contains imagery of both inva-sioo and infiltratinn. The report quotes an article by Charles Moore in The Spectator in which he refers tn "hooded hordes".

Claims that Islam's adherents use their faith mainly for political purposes and for strategic and military advantage are the fourth "tell-tale" feature of islamophobia. The fifth is that hatred of Islam is often mixed with racist opposition to immigration. This "crude colour racism" is combined with a belief that "South

Asian customs threaten to swamp and adulterate...the historic indigenous culture of the British nation."

Furthermore, althnugh Muslims have "important perspectives and in-sights" to contribute to debates about Western liberalism, modernity and secularism - but they are frequently dismissed out of hand. The final feature is the acceptance of islamophobia as natural and unproblematic. "The expression of anti-Muslim ideas and sentiments is

The consequences of islamophobia include injustice, limitations of personal freedom and sense of belonging, a lack of co-operation in ma-

jnr shared problems such as urban

increasingly respectable," claims the

poverty and deprivation, dangers of disorder (the majority of people killed by racist violence in recetn years have been Muslims), and the lost opportunity of cultural inter-

Many of the commission's proposals were echoed at vesterday's launch of a document, Election 1997 and British Muslims - For a Fair and Caring Society", by the UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs

(UKACIA).
The umbrella body for oational, regional and local institutions and mosques, called for government funding for Muslim schools and changes to the Race Relations Act which does not outlaw discrimination on the grounds of religion.

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5.59 – John Major: Madam Speaker. As I rise to speak I am conscious that around me collect the shades of great Tories past; of leaders such as the Iron Duke, such as Benjamin Disraeli, such as Randolph Churchill, such as Arthur Balfour, leaders who like mc - rose in this House to oppnse changes to our historic. unwritten constitution, and to save the nation from the damage that such thoughtless change would inevitably create.

Let me start with the so-called Great Reform Act, which would do away with many historic seats constituencies like Dunwich that have lasted a thousand years



New dangers in a changing world

- on the spurious basis that they have no voters in them. But Dunwich is still there! Still part of this United Kingdom (afheit under the sea)! And as for abolishing pocket horoughs, would this not sever the organic

and ancient link between the local squires and parliament? Has the honourable gentleman considered the effects on the country's potwallopers and hurgage tenants of the removal of the franchise? No. I say - New Whigs, New Danger!

Let us move on to the pernicious suggestions (of a small band of disgruntled and disaffected radicals) for altering the whole basis upon which members sit in this House and are elected. Consider the effect on the necessary trust between elector and elected of the introduction of secret ballots. Or the venality loosed by any decision to pay MPs. Or the dangers inherent in an extension of voting to anyone, no matter how small their stake in the country and its economy. New Chartists, New Danger!

I turn now to the hreak-up of the United Kingdom - and most specifically to the proposal for

Irish Home Rule. For 10 centuries now, our destiny and that of our Irish brethren has marched in tandem, our unity has strengthened both nations. To that end, irishmen have served the Empire, and laid down their lives for its unity. To break that link will inevitably mean the end of the United Kingdom entirely. New Nationalism, New Danger!

But what, Madam Speaker, about the reform that would sow disharmony and discord in the very bosoms of the families of Britain, and set husband against wife and brother against sister?

I refer, of course, to Votes for Women. When the husband has come to a conclusion about which

vote would best represent the interests of his family and his country, is this to be cancelled out by the woman who stands most to gain from his choice." This is the high road tn disaster. No, Madam Speaker. New Suffrage, New

Danger! It is hardly surprising then, that I must also oppose suggestions to devolve power outside this House and away from this government, to enact unnecessary and inhibiting Freedom of Information Acts, to curb the rights of peers who sit in the Lords by right of birth, to in any way alter the present voting system. All such change would be

immensely damaging to this

country, and we will leave no fear uninvoked, no argument unused and no nit unpicked in our crusade to defeat such change. New Labour, New Danger!

Not, Madam Speaker, that we are opposed to all reforms. We did away with a body to represent London. We signed the Single Europe Act. Hardly a year has passed without an alteration to the powers of local government. But none of these impinged upon the ability of the Government to govern. And that, Madam Speaker, is the ultimate test that we must apply to all such attempts to change our ancient British constitution. I beg to move." (Tory benches: Hear, hear)

Tactical voting group incurs Labour wrath

Michael Streeter

The Labour Party has been accused of shooting itself in the foot after threatening possible legal action against a tactical

voting organisation.
The group called GROT (Get Rid of Them) describes itself as an anti-Tory tactical voting campaign whose sole aim is to remove as many Conservative MPs as possible in the general election. It has targeted 90 seats in which it believes tactical voting, either for Labour or Liberal Democrat candidates, could oust a Tory MP.

However, a leaflet issued by GROT in the Milton Keynes South West constituency urging Liheral Democrats to vote Labour has angered the Labour Party.

A letter from the party's lawyers, Steel & Shamash, says the leaflet could be construed as election expenses on behalf of the Labour candidate and possibly breach the restrictions governing election expenditure. The letter, sent on 5 Febru-

ary, demands that GROT stops leaffeting in Milton Keynes and other constituencies.

It adds: "The strictures laid down in this letter are equally applicable to those constituencies and our clients wish to make

sociate themselves completely from your campaign and that no authorisation will be given by any Labour candidate or election agent for your leaflets to be included in their return of elec-

tion expenses."
GROT's spokesperson, Patti Akrigg, described the letter as "extraordinary", adding: "It's a foot-shooting exercise. They have so much more to gain from

She said the letter had caused "near panic" among some organisers who could be legally libel if the party sued. At least one member has already left GROT because of the legal warning.
As a result the group's

co-chairman Bruce Kent, a former Labour candidate and leading figure in the campaign for nuclear disarmament, has written to GROT supporters asking them not to incur any expenses in hacking a Liberal Democrat or Labour candidate without the consent of that party's local election agent.

GROT believes that tactical voting by supporters of the third party for the main rival to the Conservative candidate in targeted seats could remove scores of Tory MPs.

The organisation is now Labour in every seat."

it absolutely clear that they dis- confined largely to writing letters to local and national newspapers and it is trying to fund a national advertising cam-

paign. Boh Godall, a GROT campaign worker, said: "This sort of implied threat will just make us try harder."

The organisation is writing to local newspapers in the Wirral South constituency urging the electorate there to vote tactically in next Thursday's by-election.

In the 1992 general election, the Conservatives received 25,590 votes, Labour 17,407 and the Liberal Democrats 6,581 - which if switched to Lahour would hring them close

An opinion poll yesterday in the Liverpool Daily Post put Labour 12 points ahead of the Tories - but suggested that one-fifth of the electorate was still undecided. A Labour Party spokes-

woman said yesterday that the letter had been sent because of the strict laws surrounding election expenses incurred by indi-

On the value of GROT campaign the spokeswoman added: "They advocate voting Liberal Democrat in some seats - we would ask people to vote



John Prescott, deputy Labour leader, greeting the deputy prime minister, Michael Heseltine, before a television debate on Merseyside in front of Wirral South voters yesterday. Menzies Campbell of the Liberal Democrats was caught in traffic.

When it did begin, the debate was marred by abuse hurled at the politicians. A woman was screaming at Mr Heseltine that he had lied to voters and Mr Prescott sticky moment came when quizzed about selective schools.

When the cameras stopped rolling Mr Heseltine, who had bome the brunt of abuse, was heard to mutter of the audience; "Card-carrying members of the Labour Party.

Photograph: John Voos

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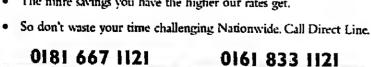
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Howe rejoins fray over Europe

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

A pro-European alliance of Kenneth Clarke, Tony Blair and Lord Howe, the firmer deputy Prime Minister, yesterday forced John Major to dump Wednesday's "hostility" to the

single currency.
Challenged by the Labour leader at Commons Question Time, the Prime Minister said he backed the view of his Chancellor, that the Government was "not hostile in its attitude to a single currency - the position remains that we have an npen optinn"

The double U-turn - in which the Government turned full-circle to the precarious balance hammered out between cabinet factions last month - began to emerge after a meeting between Mr Clarke and Malcolm Rifkind the Foreign Secretary, in the early hours of yesterday.

In a statement issued to the Reuters news agency, the two men announced: "We are hostile to the notion that a single currency can proceed at any stage on a non-convergent basis

That complex formula was the only way in which the two men could square the circle of Mr Rifkind's Wednesday statement, that the Government was on balance "hostile to a single currency", and the cabinet agreement of 23 January.

The Cabinet had then agreed that it was "very unlikely but not impossible" that the smgle currency could proceed. with or without sterling partic-

ipation, at the start of 1999. But it became clear during the course of yesterday morn-



Back in action: Lord Howe, whose attack on Margaret Thatcher's hostility to Europe played a crucial part in her demise

ing that if Mr Rifkind's "slip of . ed that Mr Rifkind had been unthe tongue" - the Chancellor's generous explanation for the 'hostile" position taken by his colleague - had been allowed to remain as a statement of policy, the splits in the Tory ranks would have threatened to break the party itself. Even the right-

wise to stray from the Cabinet's

In a BBC radio Today interview, Lord Howe warned that he would find it hard to back a government "that is in principle hostile to the concept of a single currency". The man who wing Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland, suggest-garet Thatcher in 1990 went on:

diminish if one is confronted with a series of steps constantly being taken in the wrong di-

The implicit threat was that Lord Howe - and other Tory grandees, who sounded a similar warning in a letter to The Independent last year - could cause every bit as much trouble

"One's enthusiasm is hound to for Mr Major as the Euro- and other countries which are in-

But the movement was not all one-sided yesterday. Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said after a Washington meeting with US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin that he had told him: "In the judgement of myself and Tony Blair, there are real obstacles facing Britain

creasingly difficult to overcome by 1999," But he went on: "If conditions are right, we will re-tain the option of joining the single currency in the next Parliament and in the first wave. I do not believe a single currency is a threat to the nation-state. Donald Macintyre, page 17 Labour's EMU criteria, page 19

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

6/10

agreement with Kenneth Clarke that the Government is "not hostile in its attitude to a single

Blair asked Major to state that the Government was not hostile to the single currency. This he did - clearly showing Mr Riffund's recent words on the subject to have been a gafle.

NHS bureaucracy (Eddie O'Hare, Lab, Knowsley South; Michael Stepher, C. Shoreham) ction of the National Debt (John Marshall, C. Hendon South)

The Prince's Trust (Charles Goodson-Wickes, C, Wimbledon) elot's expansion overseas (William McKelvey, Lab, Pasley South) The possibility of trial for the Lecterble bombing suspects (Tam Dalyell, Leb, Linitingov, Sir Teddy Taylor, C, Southend East)

Bleir asked Major to repeat the Chancellor's recent re-assertion that the Government was not hostile to the single currency, and that the option to join remained open, Major replied, "of course I agree with my Rt Hon Friend". In that case, would Major disown Conservative Central Office "who have been briefing that, in affect, he has closed the option on joining...?" "No one has



lain Duncan-Smith (C. Chingford): "Does my Rt Hon Friend not have sympathy for the victims of the cultural revolution? In islington (Blair's home borough) for example, it is estimated that up to 50 per cent of the children there are now educated

outside the borough."
THE UNANSWERED QUESTION Harry Barnes (Lab, North East Derbyshire) asked the Prime Minister about the as-yet unpublished electoral register on the number of people who had registered to vote: "are they as bad as they were last year?" Major replied that the Conservative Party had done its best to improve the figures.

THE CREEP OF THE DAY Stephen presented Major with a tasty old chestnut: "Does my Rt Hon Friend agree that efficient professional administration is vital to the success of the NHS? Does he recall that when we decided o modernise the system . . . the Labour Party were against it?"

Compiled by Ben Summers

Labour accused of steamroller plan for constitution

Conservative fury over Labour's row when she confirmed she had plans for constitutional reform seen a piece of paper being gations that a Labour government would try to steamroller proposals for a Scottish parliament through the Commons.

John Major opened the first sct-piece debate against Tony Blair in months by attacking Labour's plans as "flawed" and warned they would become a key issue on which he would fight the forthcoming general election.

There were Tory shouts of "disgraceful" when Mr Blair refused to give a guarantee that the legislation for the Scottish parliament would be taken entirely on the floor of the Commons, which could help to sidestep possible Labour backbench rebellions.

The Labour leader accused accused the Tories of "dirty tricks" as his keynote speech defending Labour's constitutional reforms against a sustained attack by the Prime Minister was repeatedly interrupted by interventions from ministers and Tory backbenches.

We support devolution - we oppose separatism. No change is the enewy of the union, not devolution.

"To say you support the sta-tus quo is to defy wit, instinct and history," said Mr Blair. David Hunt, the former Secretary of State for Wales, challenged Mr Blair in the closing seconds of his speech to answer 16 key questions that he had failed to answer over his party's plans for a Scottish parliament with tax-raising powers, a Welsh assembly and reform to the

With Labour MPs pointing

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

across the chamber at the Tory across the chamber at the Tory benches, the Speaker, Betty President of the Board of Trade; Boothroyd, was drawn into the mentary aide, John Ward, to Mr.

Hunt before he intervened. The only weapon Mr Major had, said Mr Blair, was fear, but he added: "The Conservatives no longer frighten because they are no longer believed. They are not believed about this, and they are not believed about what is happening around the country as that fear is being driven out.

by the hope of change." Mr Blau was repeatedly chal-

frighten us because they are not believed. Hope is driving out fear \supset

lenged over the "West Lothian question" - named after the former constituency of the Labour MP Tam Dalyell, who opposed Labour's plans for Scottish devolution in the 1970s on the ground that Scottish MPs could vote on issues such as taxation in Westminster but Westminster MPs would have no votes in a Scottish parliament.

The Labour leader responded by quoting the 1974 Conservative manifesto proposing a Scottish parliament, backed by Margaret Thatcher and a string of current Cabinet ministers, in-cluding Malcolm Rifkind, the

Ashdown caught short

on income tax strategy

and Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, who clashed four times with Mr Blair across the

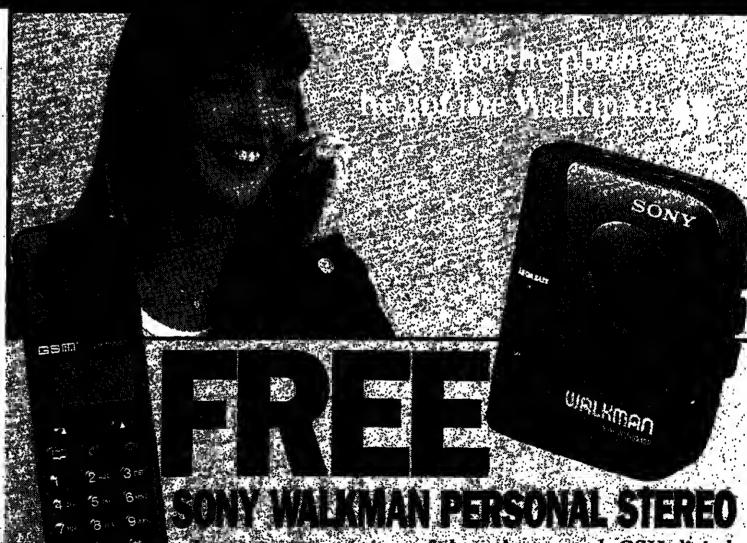
CU DOX. Mr Forsyth, roared on by his own side, said the Tories had abandoned Scottish devolution because they could not answer the West Lothian question. Mr Blair said that was "complete and total nonsense".

The Tories had an in-built majority in the Lords, said Mr Blair. Under a Labour government, over 68 per cent of defeats in the Lords were due to hereditary peers, but only 13.5 per cent under the Government.

Opening the debate, Mr Ma-jor rejected Labour's plans as a "ragbag", which could lead to employees in England being charged an extra 3p in the pound - equivalent to £300 a year for a man on average earnings - if they worked for companies such as KwikFit which had its head office in Scotland, and may be subject to the higher tax levied by Labour's proposed Scottish par-

"The plans drawn up by the Labour Party - with the Liberal Democrats in tow - are a blueprint-that would undermine the unity of the UK and erode the authority of this Parhament. As they stand, any member of this House should be ashamed to endorse them," Mr Major said.

Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown said: "I believe this is the right moment for our country to replace some of the workings of our constitution and our political system. It is the right moment to ensure that Britain enters the next century the modern age."



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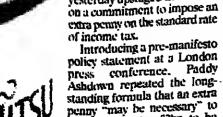
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penny may be necessary to pay for an extra £2bn to be nvested in education. The Liberal Democrat leader ackied that the final tax decision would be disclosed in a speech being planned by Malcolm Bruce, the party's Treasury

Unfortunately, Mr Ashdown had clearly not read the policy statement he was unveiling, "Priorities for Britain".

The Liberal Democrats yesterday upstaged themselves There was some confusion and embarrassment when The independent pointed out that the documen(said: "We will invest at least an additional £2bn per year in education. We will raise an extra 1p of income tax to pay

for this. A number of other policy shifts were revealed by the paper - including a reduction from up to 750,000 to "nearby half a million" in the number of low-pay employees who would be taken out of the income tax net - a redistribu-

50 per cent top rate of income

tax for people with a taxable income of more than £100,000. The Treasury calculates that

140,000 people would pay an extra £1.4bn with the new 50p, higher rate tax band, and that 470,000 people would be freed from tax, at a cost of £1.2bn, if personal allowances were increased by £200. Mr Ashdown said: "Only the

Liberal Democrats guarantee to invest in education, invest in Britain's long-term prosperity, put patients first in the NHS and look after the environment. "Britain needs the Liberal

Democrats to tell the truth about what needs to be done, what it will cost and how we will tive move financed by a new

The day commuters were taken for a free ride



journeys to work were disrupted hen a privatised train company cut 71 drivers, writes Fran Abrams.

Thousands of travellers on South West Trains were given a free day's

travel or season ticket extension. But few passengers said the disruption would affect the way they would vote

Paul Malaure, a marketing manager from Gosport, said transport was not an Issue for him; he would vote for of them. These people will walk away

Janat Hill, a secretary who works in Portsmouth, said: "Some things should be in the hands of the Government, and the rail service is one and leave them in a mess," she said. The offer from Brian Souter, chairman of Stagecoach, which took over the company last year, followed the cancellation of 200 trains this week in London, Surrey and Hampshire. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Pill scare is blamed for rise in abortions

Gienda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

Nearly 8,000 abortions have now been linked to the 1995 scare over the contraceptive Pill, raising fresh criticism of ministers over their handling of the affair.

The Birth Control Trust said there was "no other convincing explanation" for the rise of 14.5 per cent in the number of abortions during April to June 1996 compared with the same

period in the previous year.
A total of 42,683 terminations
were carried out on residents of England and Wales, a rise of 5,241. The previous quarter, January to March 1996, immediately after the scare, showed

The figures reverse the previous downward trend in abortions.

The number of abortions of non-resident women went up from 2,290 in the June quarter of 1995 to 2,502 last year, representing a rise of 9.3 per cent.

The cause of the scarc was a government warning in October 1995 that the newer "third gen-

eration" pills carried a small but increased risk of causing blood clots. Ministers and the Committee on the Safety of Medicines were strongly attacked by doctors over the warning and the way it was put out, with some doctors hearing about it from the media and unable to counsel or advise their patients. Worried women inundated

helplines, surgeries and family planning clinics to try to get more information with many simply stopping taking their contraception altogether.

The figures mean the rate of abortions is 3.3 per thousand resident women aged 14 to 49, almost the same level as for the months January to March when the highest rates are usually recorded. The number of abortions peaked in 1990 when there were 3.5 abortions per thousand resident women, but since then it has been decreasing.

which studied the announcement and concluded that the panic caused was unnecessary, said the scare was the only re-

an increase of 7 per cent in ter-minations - or 2.688 abortions. alistic explanation for the rise. "Nobody can categorically "Nobody can categorically prove that the additional aborBlead

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tions have been caused directly by the Pill panic," said Ann Foredi, the trust's director, "But it would be naive to imagine there is no association, and there is no other convincing explanation for the increase. Public confidence in the Pill has been needlessly shaken, and we are

now seeing the consequences."
The British Pregnancy Advisory Service, a non-profit making organisation which advises women facing unplanned prog-nancies, said it had been very busy during 1996. "Our own fig-ures show this increase is distributed across England and Wales. It appears that every region of the country has seen an increase," said Carolyn Roberts, BPAS's marketing director. She added that figures recorded by the organisation so far this year clearly indicated that the in-

crease was continuing. The Family Planning Asso ciation called for more help and advice for women affected by contraception scares, saying calls to its own helpline more than doubled to 8,000 a month in the three months following the Pill scare.
The FPA's chief executive,

Anne Weyman, said the "figures The Birth Control Trust, highlight the need for more support and information to enable women to use new methods effectively and with confident to

Demand for student places levelling off

Judith Judd Education Editor

University applications have dmissions Service.

However, numbers were still down on those for the year before, suggesting that demand for places may be levelling off. Competition for places will remain stiff because the number

of 18-year-olds has started to rise. Ministers froze the number of student places in November 1995 after nearly a decade of rapid expansion. Sir Ron Dearing's review of higher education is at present considering how and if student numbers should continue to grow.

The figures show that 347,037 applications for places this au-tumn had been received by the closing date of 15 December, an increase of just 0.9 per cent on last year but a fall of 0.7 per cent compared with the previous year. Last year's drop was the first since the Government sanctioned the expansion of higher education 10 years ago.

A spokesman for the com-

mittee of vice-chancellors said they were concerned that worries about financial hardship were putting off some risen slightly this year, accord-ing to figures released yesterday that demand has remained as Pressure on places continues to grow," he added.

Among individual subjects this year, applications for engineering courses decreased sharply, particularly electrical engineering, down 14 per cent and civil engineering, down 11 per cent. Computer science. by contrast, was up by 13.6 per cent. Maths applications were down by 3 per cent, but those for physics rose by 8 per cent. Applications for teacher train-

ing courses fell by 12 per cent. More than 53 per cent of applicants are women. Asians form 9 per cent of the total and

blacks 3 per cent. The figures include adjustments for the addition of new courses. Tony Higgins, UCAS chief executive, said: "Even allowing for the difficulty of comparing this year's figures and last year's, there does seem to be an increase in demand for higher education ...

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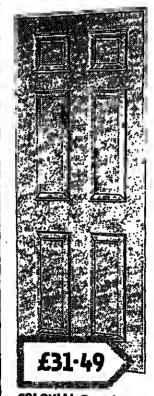
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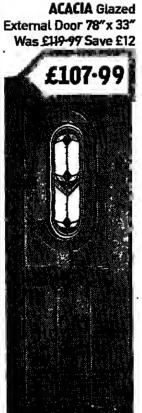
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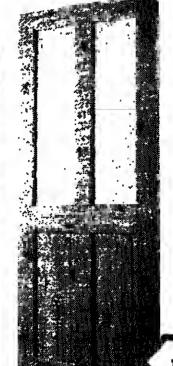
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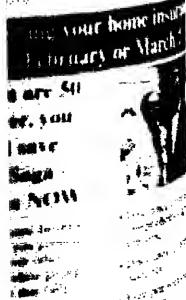


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Carlotte Carlotte all as been

Bleak picture of abuse inside women's prisons

Crime Correspondent

Women inmates are having to endure "unacceptable" conditions at least a third of the country's female jails, with widescale buse and overcrowding, the chief inspector of prisons revealed yesterday.

Prison officials admitted yesterday that there were only enough free cells for women inmates to last another two to three weeks. The overcrowding crisis has been caused by a rapid rise in the number of women being jailed.

Inspections at three jails in England found serious flaws in the way women are being dealt with, and provided a depressing picture of understaffed establishments grappling with dete-riorating regimes and conditions.

They also identified a growing problem of female inmates forcibly removing drugs hidden inside fellow prisoners. In response to calls by Sir

David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, to ap-point a Director of Women's Prisons, the Prison Service yesterday announced it was setting up a new unit to consider the problems of female inmates.

Sir David also echoed peoal. reformers complaints that that the prison officials were not taking into account the different needs of womeo inmates to those of male offenders.

Holloway prison in corth London, the female unit at Risley, Cheshire, and the women's ving at Low Newton, Durham. Sir David said that significant

also "unacceptable". Chronic

staff shortage and prisoners being locked in their cells except

for meal times were reported to

the inspectors. Urinals were

There was also evidence of

Richard Tilt, director gener-

al of the Prison Service, said the

over crowding was caused be-

cause the female population rose 23 per cent last year to a

total of 2,438. While insisting

that many of the problems iden-

tified in Sir David's reports

had been rectified since the in-

spections, Mr Tilt acknowl-

edged that the rising prison population, combined with a

tight budget, presented the ser-

He added: "We are a cash-

limited service, we have finite re-

sources. But we are doing the

best we can under the circum.

stances we find ourselves in."

ce with real problems.

improvements had been made at Holloway since he took the unprecedented step in Decem-ber 1995 of withdrawing his eam in protest, but still found a catalogue of problems, including "very serious intimida-tion and violence".

He also reported the practice of "crutching" in which women inmates who concealed drugs inside their bodies were overpowered by other prisoners who then forcibly removed the drugs for their own use.

A security review was highly critical and found that there was no closed-circuit television on the perimeter fence. Suicide preventioo systems had "sloppy and dangerous" record-keeping, which was to be "deplored", said the report.

Conditions at Low Newton which houses 57 women in a wing designed to accommodate no more than 40, were de-scribed as "unacceptable" and must oot be allowed to continue". Sir David added: "The problems are twofold - too many prisoners and not enough staff. Urgent action is required."

He went on: "For far too long the training of staff to work in glected by the Prison Service,

Irish warning on McAliskey detention

Alan Murdoch

The Irish government yesterday underlined its stern warning to Britaio over the detentioo conditions of Roisin McAliskey amid growing bealth concerns for the prisocer who is in category A security while facing extradition proceedings.

Irish ministers are alarmed that Ms McAliskey, who is more than six months pregnant, has oot been given assurances that her baby will not be taken from her at hirth and are fearful for her physical and psychological health. The British Ambassador,

Veronica Sutherland, was called



Roisin McAllskey: Concern about her 'appalling treatment'

in on Wednesday to hear protests from the Irish Foreign Minister, Dick Spring, over the cooditioos in which Ms McAliskey, 25, is being held in Holloway Prison, north London. Privately. Doblin sources were yesterday putting the po-litical risk more bluntly, warn-

ing that, given health concerns for Ms McAliskey's baby, British mishandling of the case risked creating a new Republican martyr.

The daughter of the former Westminster MP Bernadette McAliskey is in jail pending a German extraditioo application over a mortar-attack on a

Mr Spring told Mrs Sutherland difficulties over the prisoner's treatment "had the potential to cause damage to the shared objectives of both governments in the peace process".

Detention under category A status has restricted Ms McAliskey's family visits and contact with other prisocers. Dublin maintains her pregnan-cy means she is unlikely to be a threat in terms of escaping. Duhlin sources yesterday

described her strip-searching after visits as "appalling treatment" for a pregnant woman, and wants her detention conditions improved as soon as

Senior sources fear the case could provide damaging pro-paganda against Britain if her treatment does not improve, and are mindful of the upsurge of public support for Republicanism in the aftermath of the IRA hunger strikes in the early 1980s. For this reason Dublin wants assurances aboot her future treatment to be public. In London, the German

Ambassador, Jürgen Oesterhelt, is reported to have told Labour MPs that his government's position on granting bail to Ms McAliskey had been misunderstood by the Crown

Prosecution service. After meeting the German Ambassador to Ireland, the deputy leader of the main Fianna Fail opposition party, Mary O'Rourke, said she was advised the Germans were not insisting on bail. Mrs O'Rourke last week went to Holloway for a 35-minute visit with the prisoner and complained to the gov-ernor about the 24-hour lighting of her cell and half-hourly inspections throughout the night.
The British Prison service last

week denied that Ms McAliskey would be shackled to a prison officer during birth.

DAILY POEM

New Gravity

By Robin Robertson

Treading through the half-light of ivy and headstone, I see you in the distance as I'm telling our daughter about this place, this whole business: a sister about to be bottly how a life's new gravity suspends in water. Under the oak, the fallen leaves are pieces of the tree's jigsaw, by your father's grave you are pressing acoms into the shadows to seed.

"New Gravity" comes from Robin Robertson's first collection, A Painted Field, published today by Picador at £6.99. The author will be reading at the Voice Box in the Royal Festival Hall, London on Thesday 25 February at 7.30pm.

Is this England's only surviving national folk art?



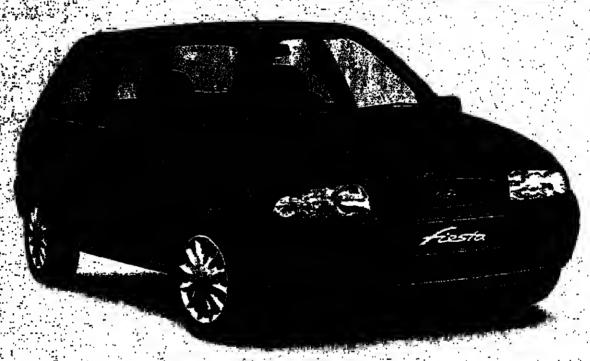
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museum to delve further into the origins of the boatmen's

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Hume attacks 'vote-stealing' by Sinn Fein

Ireland Correspondent

The SDLP leader John Hume yesterday launched an unusually scathing attack on Sinn Fein and the IRA, questioning their good faith and warning the electorate that a vote for Sinn Fein was in effect a vote for violence.

Calling for an immediate ceasefire, he accused Sinn Fein of vote-stealing, intimidation of SDLP workers and declaring: "Having availed of our good faith as honest brokers, they now intend to cast us aside using any means, fair or foul."
While Mr Hume did not per-

sonalise his criticisms on Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, his criticisms of Sinn Fein - as distinct from the IRA, whose violence he has roundly condemned - were his sharpest for a number of years. The "Hume-Adams" relationship, which has developed during the 1990s into close co-operation on the peace process, has considerably toned the two parties' public ex-

All the signs are that the which is meant the efforts of the two leaders to advance the peace process, will remain in being, since the two leaders regard it as transcending convention-al party polines. But it is clear that, at least for the election

campaign, the gloves are off. Mr Hume's criticisms, con-Belfast Irish News, seem to reflect both electoral concerns and



Hume: A vote for Sinn Fein is in effect a vote for violence

clearly intent nn mnre violence during the election campaign. The SDLP has been under pressure in some constituencies to reach an agreement with Sinn Fein in order to remove Unionist MPs who hold their seats by

virtue of a split nationalist vote. Mr Hume said: "To make an electoral pact with Sinn Fein without an IRA ceasefire would he the equivalent of asking our voters to support the killing of innocent human beings by the IRA. The electorate should be aware that in voting for Sinn Fein that is what they are voting for: Sinn Fein call it the

armed struggle."
Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein responded by claiming that some leading figures in the SDLP "are frightened out of tained in a lengthy article in the their wits that Sinn Fein will do really well in the coming election". Mr McGuinness himself his dismay that the IRA is is thought to have a fair chance

while Mr Adams is regarded as favourite to win back West Belfast from the SDLP. In the last election Sinn Fein's vote went up while the SDLP's

But apart from the immediate electoral considerations, Mr Hume's words will generate speculation that he is losing faith in the ability of Mr Adams to deliver a fresh IRA cessation of violence. His article closed with the words: "This cannot go on

... Without a ceasefire we are going to have to look elsewhere for a means of making progress."
Although it is not immedi-

ately obvinus what alternative courses are open to the SDLP, this will be taken as an unmistakeable indication that gener al nationalist patience with Sinn Fein is growing thin.

■ The parents of a soldier who was shot and killed by an IRA sniper yesterday made an impassioned plea to the terrorists to call a ceasefire and make their son's death the last. John and Rita Restorick

made their emotional appeal for peace in an open letter to politicians including John Major, US, President Bill Clinton, Labour leader, Tony Blair, Irish premier, John Bruton and Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams. Their son, Lance Bombardier

Stephen Restorick, 23, was killed by a sniper's hullet last Tuesday as he stopped cars at an army check-point in south Armagh. His funeral service will take place on 24 Fehruary.



Jack's the lad for stage hopefuls

Don't put your daughter on the stage was the advice to Mrs Donna Hanford and her financier husband, Jason, were more than happy to ignore.

Their son Jack reputedly

brown-eyed star of the Safeway's commercials, though the fee was secret. Daughter Scar-lett is set to follow suit for the Worthington. It was advice Danish food chain, Netto. At the age of 21 months, she makes her screen dehut next Monday.

But though acting income is a useful addition to school fees. became the highest-paid child and some families will go to dra-actor in advertising as the matic lengths to give their

youngsters the chance of success, few will become a Jack Hanford and end up with thousands in the bank. Jackie Patten, of the

Young'uns agency, said that

over the years there had always been one child in an advertisement who caught the public imagination. Patsy Kensit, the actress, for instance, made the peas go pop for Bird's Eye. But many children are suc-

cessful actors without instant recognition or much money. The hig West End shows might pay £20 to £25 a performance, but under-13s can only do 40

Royal Shakespeare Company, pays considerably less, "But the parents get a kick from see-ing their children on stage and enjoying themselves," Mrs Pat-

Not that being stage-struck is the preserve of parents alone. Joanne Hawes, who looks after children in shows including Oliver! and Miss Saigon, said: Some children are so desperate to take part they pester their parents who haven't had anything to do with theatre before to let them do it."

prestigious work, such as for the were many pushy middle-class route to fame and fortune. "They see their kids as potential Macauley Culkin goldmines," she said. But working class parents were just as pushy given the chance and were noticeable at open audi-

tions where anyone can turn up. David Shute, who made the Netto commercials, said they normally used children who were already nn agents' books. He added: "If mum is on the books of a casting agent, she should know that television One mother of a stage-struck shoots are long and boring and shows a year. However, much son said at acting classes there not particularly glamorous."

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Obsessed gunman planned massacre

Jonathan Foster

A man obsessed with guns wrote a "truly horrific" fourpage essay depicting a massacre in his home town in which he shot dead shoppers and police

officers, a court heard yesterday. Jason Curtis, 28, of Llandrindod Wells, Powys, wrote the essay after police withdrew his firearms licence in 1994. In it he listed officers by name and gave step-by-step details of the revenge he planned to take on those he hlamed for taking away his beloved guns and firearms certificate.

The judge, Mr Justice Mance, who considered psychiatric re-ports on Curtis before jailing nim yesterday for four-and-ahalf years for 10 firearms and drug possession offences, de-scribed the document as "a truly horrific piece of writing".

As extracts from the chilling

essay were read to Caernaryon Crown Court, it was clear the sights of Curtis' guns were trained on mass murder in the streets of his sleepy country

It began: "It was a warm sunny morning on the 8th July, and the people in Llandrindod Wells went on there [sic] normal merry way, either to school, shaps or work, an one would have guest [sic] of the holocoust [sic] to come ..

The imagined killing spree begins at the police station.

Graphic descriptions follow, named officers meeting their deaths as bullets shattered their skulls and flooded the floor with

Curtis, who had been allowed to keep 14 firearms, wrote about how he would wear camouflage trousers and commando boots, and use a Beretta 9mm pistol and a .38 revolver for "hunting the enemy".

Curtis: Harrific reveage

He described the large quannty of ammunition he planned to carry, down to the last bullet. He wrote about going into an hypnotic trance when he thought of the senior officer who had revoked his firearms certificate.

"Not a thought past [sic] through his mind, until his minds eye pictured his hate against one man, this man had taken the only thing that matterd [sic] to him away, one only thing that had kept him sanc

and on the edge, his firearms," he wrote. The threat was made more

potent because Curtis had continued to be around weapons for two years after he was nrdered to dispose of his personal arsenal. Until January, he was the armourer for the local Abbey Cwmhir shnnting club. He imported gun components and made ammunition.

daim

In his account, Curtis shoots two more constables before kicking open the door. Raising the pistol, he began to fire, pumping round after round into the chest area, the momentum of the tenth bullet [sending the officer] crashing through the plate glass window and onto the pavement helow. Jason leaned out of the window, smiled and left the police station."

Out on the street, Curtis reloads and crosses the road. "A car screeched behind him. the bumper nudging his leg. Jason turned to the driver. Levelling the pistol he fired twice...
a deathly silence stretched
across the bewildered shoppers ... Mass panic had now broken out as people trampled

each other to get out of the range of fire." In police interviews, Curtis had insisted that he had no intention of carrying out the merely written about the dream because it was so vivid and it had

English Heritage warms to the V&A Boilerhouse

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

"Extremely hideous" or a "watershed in public taste", the £67m Boilerhouse extension planned for the Victoria & Albert Museum in London moved a hig step nearer reality yesterday when it received the backing of English Heritage.

Daniel Libeskind's provocatively modern design now has the support of the two bodies whose opinious matter most -English Heritage, the government's statutory adviser, and the Royal Fine Art Commission, concerned primarily with architecture

Slimmed down from the mas-

sive tile-covered structure unveiled last May, the futuristic huilding will break the mountony of Exhibition Road, South Kensington, and provide the V&A with additional galleries, an education centre and cafes.

"Ten years ago it would have been inconceivable that a design of this originality would be applauded as widely as Daniel Libeskind's design has been," said Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chair-man of English Heritage, an-nouncing the decision, "Perhaps we are witnessing a watershed in public taste when design quality of this kind is appreciated and

reeted so enthusiastically." Alan Borg, director of the V&A, said planning permission would probably be sought from Kensington and Chelsen council in the autumn.

But the extension, consisting of conflicting planes, has influential critics, Giles Worsley, editor of Perspectives On Architecture, called it "extremely hideous and inappropriate"- a

charge rejected by Sir Jocelyn.

A survey by the museum, based on the original hulkier design, found public opinion divided. Of more than 1,000 people who commented during a six-week exhibition, 48 per cent said they were against the Libeskind Boilerhouse, 40 per cent were in favour and 11 per cent were in support, but with

حكدًا من الاعل

Torture deaths that shame Palestine

Horrific pictures show depravity of security force interrogators

Patrick Cockburn Jerusalem

Just before he died, Palestinian military intelligence brought Youssef Baba to hospital in Nablus, the biggest city on the West Bank, suffering from severe burns to his upper left arm which were clearly caused by

Doctors at the Rafidiyah hos-pital saw the wound had become gangrenous and wanted to amputate the arm from above the elbow saying it was the only way to save Mr Baba's life. His interrogators refused to let the operation take place and took him back to their headquarters where he died oo 31 January.

"He was tortured with the electric element used to boil water and was also beaten with either a stick or an electric cable." says Bassam Eid of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitor-

Photographs of Mr Baba's body taken by his family before they buried him, and given to The Independent, show burns on his upper left arm and thighs as well as red marks indicating that he was whipped on the oeck and

Mr Baba was the 12th person

curity forces since they began to move 6 The doctors suggested that they god of 1995. into Gaza and the save his life by cutting off his arm, intelligence in headed in 1994 under the terms of the Oslo accords.

Ten of the prisoners appear to 3 January, He was involved in ly to apply to the governor, who have been tortured to death and a complicated business dispute two were shot dead in circumstances which are still unclear. Among the 1,200 or more prisoners held in Palestinian jails, torture has become routine.

Some of those torrured were accused of collaborating with Israel, others of belonging to Is- family say that he had arranged lamic militant organisations like Hamas or Islamic Jihad, but many were arrested because they had coemies in the Pales-

of being involved "in car theft

At first, the aothorities in Nabius, a town of 120,000 north of Jerusalem, tried to keep quiet about what had happened to Mr Baba. His brother Omar, who owns a photographic studio in the town, says: "The first time I knew Youssef was dead was when I heard the news on Israeli radio."

The hospital carried out an autopsy on the body, but the re-port disappeared. Two nurses from the hospital involved in concealing it are now under

Nevertheless the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Baba, a 32-year-old busi-nessman not directly involved in politics, are becoming clear. They show how ordinary Palestinians are wholly at the mercy of the security forces and have no legal recourse.

Mr Khader, who heads an investigation of the affair by the Palestinian Legislative Council; says Mr Baba was "taken to the espital oo less than five times before he died, but the doctors didn't tell anybody".

Mr Baba certainly did not expect to be arrested when he was asked to visit Mahmoud alto die in the custody of the Alul, the governor of Nablus, on

His brother Omar says: "He

gave some land as security for

a loan of \$55,000, but when he

came to pay the money the man

would not give the property

back." Other members of the

a sale of land to somebody

over land.

on a business trip. Then they had an anonymous telephone call saying he was in the military headquarters, a bulky brown building decorated with an enormous portrait of Yasser Arafat,

the Palestinian leader, which had housed the Israeli occupation forces until the

but the investigators refused 9 Nablus by Cap-tain Hani Ayad military beadquarters.

Husam Kader, for many years the leader of Fatah, Mr Arafat's political movement in Balata refugee camp on the edge of Nablus, says that Mr Baba was first admitted to Rafidiyah hospital on 24 January because of the injuries he who wanted to pull out of the deal. In citier case it is clear Mr suffered during interrogation. He says that six days later

Baba had offended somebody "the doctors suggested that in Palestinian military intelliintelligence is the worst of these, says Husam Khader, a Palestinian Council member for Nablus, who accuses them gence and the governor's office. his arm, but the investigators returned days, his family fused. Bassain Eid confirms that he was told privately by a pened to him. They thought he senior doctor at Rafadiyah that



he proposed amputation as the only way of stopping gangrene which had set in. By the following day Mr Baba was dead. Under public pressure, the Palestinian Authority last weekend arrested Captain Ayad and

as Abdel Muti Sadiq, the deputy governor of Nablus, and Bassam Hilu, director-general of the governor's office. But Bassam Eid is not optimistic that this means that Mr Arafat's security forces will be under closer sutwo of his interrogators as well pervision in future. In the past,

the heavily publicised death of their victims to protest against torture victims has led to summary arrests, but without any change in policy.

There is a feckless confidence in the way the Palestinif knowing the impotence of

moud Jumayel, a 26-year-old Fatah activist, died after being tortured with electric shocks and continual beatings with electric cable and clubs by members of Baba's body, far left and below, shows the full extent of his injuries. Fayez al-Qumseih, left died after allegedly being beaten with a baseball bat

the Palestinian navy. In De-cember, in Jericho, Rashid al-Patiani, accused of collaborating with Israel, was shot 13 times though police were uncertain whether he had died because he started a fight or while trying to

Even while Mr Baha was being tortured in Nablus, anoth-er prisoner of the Palestinian Authority called Fayez al-Oumseih died of a heart attack in Bethlehem on 17 January.

His son Majdi says: "They beat him with a baseball bat until he confessed."

It is probably too late to curtail the arbitrary power won by the Palestinian security ser-

vices in the last two years. The Palestinian media seldom publishes details of torture or other abuses. Protests by leaders of the four main Palestinian human rights organisa-tions - all of whom had campaigned for years against

Israeli human rights abuses -

have led to their imprisonment. And Khalid Kidreh, the Palestinian attorney geoeral, who ordered the arrest of Captain Ayad and his inter-rogators for killing Mr Baba, says that he views all Palestinian human rights activists as "a



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Algerian rebel group claims assassination

Robert Fisk Middle East Correspondent

-

Water

ے دجھنے

The message came from the Algerian Jihad Islamic Front loosely associated to the banned Islamic Salvation Froot (FIS) that stood to win 1992's cancelled Algerian elections - and it was as was chilling as it was

"The Mujahedin in the cause of Allah in Algeria have lately executed a brilliant military operation against a notorious enemy of Islam and Muslims - the late Abdelhaq Benhamouda, a prominent Communist Union leader, killing him and his two bodyguards, praise be to Allah!"

Benhamouda, a secular enemy of Algeria's Islamist oppositioo, was indeed shot dead in a central Algerian square. A personal friend and adviser to President Liamine Zeroual, his assassination had originally been hlamed on the more ex-, to take part in the elections treme Armed Islamic Group

But Benhamouda was a political enemy of the FIS and the communique of the armed group makes no secret of its responsibility.

"The efficiency and 'profes-sionalism' of the operation has startled the enemy," it says.
"Fear has taken possession of their feelings. The junta generals and their acolytes were sobbing during Benhamotida's burial and broke into tears."

Boilerhouse Tears, of course, have become an over-used currency in the latest stage of Algeria's war. The Muslim holy month of Ramadan - marked by a bloodbath of throat-cuttings, beheadings, car bombs and even baby-strangling - cost the lives of at least 300 people, almost all civilians, many of them women.

With the prime minister himself admitting at least 80,000 dead since 1992 - the real figure may be nearer 100,000 -President Zeroual's promise of early elections has offered litthe real hope of an end to the slaughter. Although legislative elections are to be held on 29 May and 5 June, the FIS will not be allowed to participate; the



offensive against Islamists

new constitution bans all parties based on religion, but those Islamic groups which support the government will be allowed

 ← There is no doubt that the horrors inflicted on civilians in the name of

Islam are rubbing off on the FIS as well as the GIA 9

The president's promise to "eradicate" the armed Islamist groups has been followed by a major military offensive this week against rebels in the Tamesguida district, a wild and hilly area in the north-eastern Medea province where - if the Algerian press are to be believed - up to 60 Islamists were

For several months, the government has been relying on

"self-defence" units made up of local villagers to combat the Islamists - it is principally their families who have been subjected to the wave of throat-cuttings - but this week the Algerian army was once again sent into action.

Helicopter gunships were used to fire rockets into the forests of Medea as part of the latest offensive, the first wholesale military operation since an attack on Islamists around Ein Defla two years ago. Since 24 January, 170 guerrillas have been killed, according to President Zeroual.

The FIS, however, continues to hold the authorities responsible for the slanghter in the vil-lages south of Algiers, claiming that the GIA has been infiltrated by the Algerian intelligence services who are provoking the massacres.

The printed admission of Benhamonda's murder - in a newsletter which regularly demands the release from captivity of the three FIS leaders, Abassi Madani, Ali Belhaj and Abdelkader Hashani - says that the authorities "want us to be-lieve that Mujahedin are only capable of mass killings, barbaric' massacres: car bombing, throat-cuttings, women's breasts and the cutting of men's testicles and all sorts of body mutilations.

"Everyone knows that these atrocious crimes are taking place in pro-Islamic areas, in Bl-ida, Medea and Algiers suburbs, against natural supporters of the Islamic Movement ... "These crimes are the work

of the secret service and the

militias whose recruits are paranoid drug addicts ..." But there is no doubt from this message that the horrors inflicted on civilians in the name of Islam are rubbing off on the FIS as well as the GIA.

"It is forbidden, in Islam, to kill innocents, women, children and the elderly, to mutilate or torture," the statement goes on, adding that "the Mujahedin disavowed, again and again, these unlawful and un-Islamic

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Yeltsin sacks security service chief

Russian President Boris Yeltsin yesterday issued a decree dismissing Vasily Trofimov, deputy director of the Federal Security Service (FSB), for "gross violations in his work "as revealed by the Russian Auditing Chamber".

It was not immediately clear whether his sacking was also linked to the arrest of two FSB officers earlier this month on suspicion of large-scale drug trafficking. Helen Womack - Moscow

Albanian anger erupts

Stones were harled at not police who moved in with truncheons, hitting protesters and firing volleys of live ammunition into the air, as several hundred people tried to force their way to the centre of Albania's capital, Tirana. after 7,000 people gathered at a suburban soccer field. The country has been rocked by riots since pyramid investment schemes collapsed in January, wiping out tens of thousands of people's savings across the country. Reuters – Tirana

Diplomat to be charged

The Georgian diplomat involved in a Washington car crash that killed a girl. 16, gave himself up and is expected to be charged with involuntary manslaughter. Georgia had waived diplomatic immunity privileges for Georgy Makharadze. The case raised new outcry against diplomats who violate

Transvestites duped

Eight Thai transvestites are planning to sue a doctor for putting condoms filled with salt water instead of silicon implants in their breasts. The clinic in Thailand's beach resort of Pattava where the treatment was carried out has been closed down.



ceremony in Moscow yesterday to mark the 50th anniversary of the weapon's production. More than 70 million have been distributed worldwide Photograph: AP

Economic ills drive Kohl into coalition pact

Imre Karacs Bonn

Germany's vast economic problems have driven Helmut Kohl into the embrace of the opposition, opening the way to a grand coalition in all hut name.

Under a deal to be thrashed out on Monday by Mr Kohl and Oskar Lafontaine, the leader of the Social Democrats, the higgest opposition party will cosponsor the tax reform hill. and will be consulted no this year's spending cuts. As a consequence of their pact, Mr Kohl will no longer be able to tout the tax package as his own in next year's election campaign.

In return, the Social Democrats will be able to tilt taxation in favour of their members. and gain valuable influence in government after nearly 15 years in the political wilderness. But both sides stress that all Germans will benefit from the arrangement, because many of the urgent reforms the country needs to regain its competitiveness will be introduced in 1998. a year earlier than originally nlanned

Rocked by spiralling unem-ployment and internal strife, the government has ahruptly ditched its intransigence, and is now going out of its way to strike a meek tone in its dealings with the opposition. Wolfgang Schäuble, Mr Kohl's deputy, yes-terday gave the first clear indirats' vision of social justice can be accommodated.

accept a cut in the top rate of approved by the Social Demoincome tax from 53 to 39 per cent, but are holding out against changes that would hit hlue-collar supporters. Mr Schäuble

Helmut Kohl: Duty to lead party into next elections

suggested yesterday that he would be prepared to "compromise" over new taxes introduced for overtime and weekend work - the opposition's main hone of contention. The Social Democrats are also firmly opposed to an increase in VAT to compensate for revenue lost in the top bracket.

The government is also looking for savings of several hillion deutschmarks this year in its effort to meet the Maastricht

cation that the Social Democ-criteria for monetary union. Though it has a comfortable enough majority in the Bundes-The SPD appears willing to tag, many welfare cuts must be crat-controlled upper chamber. the Bundesrat. The opposition had promised a gridlock, and so

far it has been true to its word. The rapprochement over the next months will shift the thrust of government policy towards the left, outflanking Mr Kohl's right-wing junior coallition partners, the Free Democrats, whn have been holding the Chancellor hostage to their laissezfaire agenda. Mr Kohl himself will only benefit in the long-term if he succeeds in reducing unem-ployment before the elections.

However, Europe's longestserving statesman is slowly reasserting himself. In recent polls, he has re-emerged as the Christian Democrat with the highest personal rating. All that is needed now is the announcement that, with the greatest reluctance, he is willing to lead his party into the next elections.

Mr Kohl had not planned to make a statement until summer, hut internal unrest in the party has forced his hand. Addressing a closed meeting of Christian Democrats earlier this week, Mr Kohl gave the strongest him yet: "I know my duty," he said at the end of an emotional speech described by the party faithful as "vintage Kohl". He received thunderous applause.

Russia ready to lock horns with Albright

Phil Reeves Moscow

themselves to lock horns with the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Alhright, blows began raining down on Moscow from another quarter yesterday - the

republic of Ukraine. In an interview timed to coincide with the arrival of Mrs Albright in Moscow, the Ukrainian president, Leonid Kuchma, delivered his strongest ever tirade against her neighbours. "Absolutely no one in Russia wants to understand our position, to listen to our arguments," he told Russia's Nezavisimaya Gazeta. They make it look in Russia as if Ukraine does not exist as an independent, sovereign state."

Although Mr Kuchma said his criticisms were unrelated to tensions over Nalo expansion, his tirade will infuriate Moscow. which has been watching with alarm as its former fiefdom has sought closer ties with the alliance, but not membership.

Nor will Russia view kindly that Mr Kuchma - with whom it has been wrangling over the Black Sea fleet - chose to un-leash such criticisms just before its talks with Mrs Albright. Fears of Russian imperialism are one of the arguments central and eastern European countries use to press for Nato admission.

Ms Albright is due to meet Mr Yeltsin later today for talks which the Russians believe have ominous historical implications. In her noisy, some would say Napoleonesque, route march towards Moscow, she has been scattering incentives like conferti - including a Naio-Russian brigade, a Nato-Russian consultative council, and amendments to the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty.

But there has been little hint of a willingness to move in key areas. Nato is unlikely to agree to Russia's demand for a legally hinding agreement governing their relationship. Moscow is, Western sources say, doorned to make little headway should it press for a pledge from the alliance not eventually to admit the Baltics - a potential flashpoint in East-West relations.

Despite this, the alliance is making little secret that it is unlikely to admit Estonia, Latvia, Lithunia as full members, because of Russia's huge stake in the region. Ironically, Russia's nagging border disputes with the Balls will help Nato to justify denying them admission.

Ms Alhright, who marched off her aeroplane last night wearing a black cowboy-style hat, will need all the swashbuckling she can muster. Her hosts regard her mission with with an iciness that is somewhat colder than the sub-zero tempera-

tures - as, Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, found out. He left Moscow this As Russia's leaders hraced week complaining that he had met universal opposition.

This is partly because Russian outrage over Nato expansion has now risen from a rumhling to a roar, not least because of the alliance's inept conduct over the last few weeks - particularly, an ill-timed visit by Nato's Secretary General Javier Solana to ex-Soviet republics on

Russia's southern flank. Whether Ms Albright fares any better than her German counterpart remains to be seen. The Russians regard her with a mixture of suspicion, because they fear her Czech hackground may make her anti-Russian, and guarded awe, because she

Vienna (Reuters) -- Nato put forward a proposal at conventional arms reduction talks in Vienna aimed at sweetening the alliance's planned eastward expansion for Russia. Officials say the new conventional arms reduction proposal, which modifies the 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, should go a long way to calming Moscow's fears that Natn could pile up weapons on Russia's borders. The Americans say the proposed modification of CFE, amounts tn a legally binding document.

is a woman operating in a predominantly male world, not unlike Margaret Thatcher whom many Russians admired.

Her dealings with Yevgeny Primakov, Russia's Foreign Minister, are certain to be tense, hut they can hardly be worse than his relationship with her predecessor. Warren Christopher. Diplomatic sources say the two men loathed one another.

She arrives knowing that Moscow has few political cards to play. It does, however, have a moral argument or two. Chief among these is the view that Nato is rushing towards expansinn purely to satisfy its own political ends, regardless of the consequences.

The argument runs thus: the alliance has to grow to survive as a post-Cold War institution; it has bowed to pressure from the US, which knows there are domestic points to be scored (there is a large Polish vote), and from central and eastern European nations, which are using Nato membership as a staging post for entry to the EU.

But should these considerations outweigh the damage that Nato expansion might cause in an ailing and unstable nuclear power which is humiliated by its Cold War defeat, and still trying to turn itself into a democ-

SA steps in to host peace talks for Zaire

Mary Braid Johannesburg

The Zairean government and the Rwandan-hacked rebels who have captured a swath of eastern Zaire seem to be on the brink of their first face-to-face peace talks in Cape Town.

Speculation that the talks were already underway reached tever pitch vesterday after President Nelson Mandela said an aircraft was ready to fly the rebel leader Laurent Kahila to South Africa for talks with the aephew and chief military adviser of Mohutu Sese Seko, the ailing Zairean President.

Mr Mandela said South Africa was merely a host for the 'good" initiative launched by Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda, the neighbour Zaire

accuses of backing the rebels. South African military sources claimed that Mr Kahila landed early yesterday. The United States embassy confirmed that officials were in Cape Town to bolster the peace process.

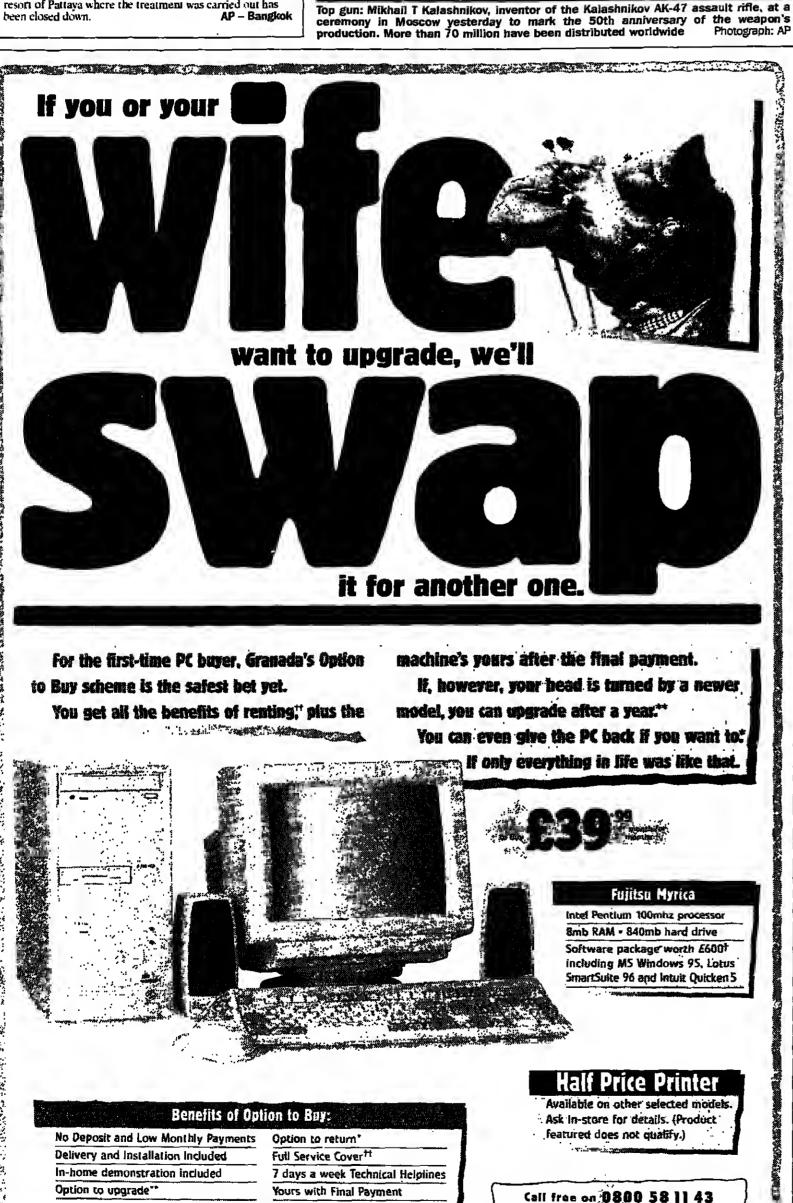
By yesterday afternoon, however, a news hlackout was in place. Rusty Evans, South Africa's director-general of foreign affairs, retracted earlier confirmations that Mr Kahila was in town. "There is a great reluctance nn both sides to acknowledge that they are willing to negotiate," he said. The Zairean government in-

sists that it will not enter into peace talks before foreign troops have been withdrawn from its territory. Yesterday, it reiterated that position following the departure of four foreign ministers on a separate diplomatic mission to Kinshasa. A few hours later it announced fresh attacks on rebel positions.

The Zaireans talk tough hut their counter-offensive launched last mouth has failed, And while Mr Kabila's vow to be in Kinshasa by last Christmas was over-optimistic, the rebels have made greater progress than anyone predicted.

Yesterday a spokesman for South Africa's Deputy President, Thabo Mheki, denied that he had been involved in talks with Zaireans. But another government source said he was laying the foundations for an imminent meeting. In Kinshasa, Leon Kengo Wa Dondo, the Zairean Prime Minister, claimed he knew nothing about the Cape Town meeting.

Last Tuesday, the United Nations approved a five-point plant to end the conflict which threatens to engulf the entire Great Lakes region. But an Africanhrokered peace would be seen as a coup for the continent, and racy? The Russians say: no. | for South Africa in particular.



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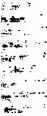
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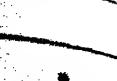












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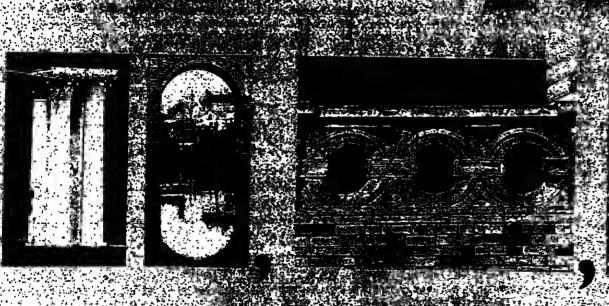
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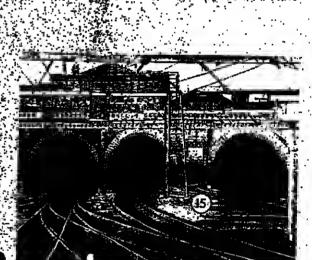
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Battle for power looms as Chinese

AFTER DENG

Calm markets help confound dire warnings

Stephen Vines

Confident predictions about an outhreak of jitters in Hong Kong following Deng Xiaop-ing's death were confounded yesterday.

The mood of calm was reinforced by Tung Chee-hwa, the head of the first post-colonial government, announcing that all serving heads of Civil Service departments would be able to keep their jobs following the handover of power in July. Mr Tung said this would en-

sure a very large measure of continuity ... which will help maintain the stability of Hong

Kong". Most surprisingly, the nor-mally volatile and notoriously many volatile and notoriously jittery stock exchange, a reliable indicator of public opinion, shot up after a faltering start. Analysts had confidently predicted that the market would fall by 500 to 1,000 points. In the event, the leading Hang Seng Index rose 305 points, a gain of Index rose 305 points, a gain of more than 2 per cent, as almost

£1bn changed hands in a day of hectic trading. Stockbrokers said Deng's demise had been long expected and investors were waiting on the sidelines to pour money into shares once the paramount leader's fate had been sealed. There were also suggestions that China's supporters had joined the buying spree to con-

vey an impression of confidence. Investors' views seemed to be shared by most people in Hong Kong. "We've been expecting Deng to pass away for some time." Li Fu, a garage owner, said. "We are well prepared for this." Nevertheless, newspaper sales soared by 50 per cent yesterday and the television and radio stations gave blanket coverage to Deng's death. Most schools held special ceremonies

and explained to pupils the implications of the Chinese leader's demise.

Deng's death even broke the ice between the Governor. Chris Patten, and Chinese officials in the territory. Mr Patten was admined for the first time to the headquarters of Peking's de facto embassy in the colony to pay his respects and make the customary three bows before Deng's portrait.

local politicians stressed that the paramount leader's death would do nothing to change China's policy nor to create instability as the result of a power struggle in Peking. However, Martin Lee, leader

of the Democratic Party, speaking from London, said he feared there may be some changes for the worse as the new leadership opts for rigidly conservative policies because of their

insecurity.

An indication of the degree to which Hong Kong remains in the minds of the Chinese leadership was provided by the appointment of Mr Tung and two Hong Kong tycoons, TK Ann and Henry Fok, to the 459-strong important funeral committee which will preside over arrangements for

Mr Tung was in the Chinese capital when Deng died. He was seeking approval for his plans to reappoint all the principal officials serving the current administration. Only two new appointments were made to

replace retiring officials. The new attorney-general, now to be known as the secretary for justice, will be 57-yearold Elsie Leung, a well-known China-supporting solicitor and member of China's National People's Congress, the rubberstamp parliament. Fears have been expressed that she might politicise the post



Photograph: Jason Reed/Reuters

Death of chief protector leaves Hong Kong uneasy

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

It is hard to exaggerate the ex-tent in which Deng Xiaoping was personally responsible both for scaling the fate of Hong Kong's political future and for creating the conditions under which the forestory has arrigand which the territory has enjoyed an extraordinary period of

economic prosperity.

According to the official version of events, Deng turned his attention to the future of Hong Kong in 1978. The Communist Party's Central Committee was preparing its radical programme of economic reform, the scheme for so called "socialist modernisation", and was devising ways of "achieving the reunifi-cation of the motherland".

Deng Xiaoping knew that China would never achieve modernisation without help from overseas Chinese compatriots, especially those in Hong Kong. It had long served as China's economic window on the world. Now Hong Kong was to become more than a mere en-treport; it was to provide both the capital and know-how needed to breathe new life into the elephantine Chinese economy.

Deng was also aware that China had the opportunity to re-alise its historic dream of recovering sovereignty over Hong Kong. The humiliating treaty which ceded a part of the Chinese mainland for a period of 99 years was due to expire in 1997. Hong Kong island itself had been ceded in perpetuity back in 1842, but it was clear that the island could not survive

without the mainland territory. Deeply conscious of Chinese history and his place in it, Deng Xianping made it a priority to expunge the disgrace of foreign occupation of Chinese soil. He was not going to be another Li Hongzhang, the Qing dynasty official who signed the treaty handing over Hong Kong to the British. As he told Margaret

Stephen Vines reviews Deng's crucial role in the colony's economic boom

Thatcher in 1982 'no Chinese leader or government would be able to justify themselves" for failing to secure the return of the territory. It would mean the present Chinese govern-ment was just like the government of the late Qing Dynasty

However Deng knew it would not be enough to satisfy Chinese national pride; fears of the Hong Kong people also needed to be allayed. More important was to reassure the people of Taiwan, occupied by the anti-Communist Nationalist gov-

leader would be able to justify themselves for failing to secure the return of the colony >

ernment, which he also wanted returned to the Chinese fold. To do so, he developed the "one country, two systems" con-cept under which, according to Deng, "the main part of China must maintain socialism, but a capitalist system will be allowed to exist in certain areas, such as Hong Kong and Taiwan". Capitalist influences would also be allowed in to "supplement the

socialist economy".

This was the genesis of both the idea that Hong Kong could

remain capitalist, albeit under the sovereignty of a Communist state, and that other cities. notably in the south, would be allowed to develop along capitalist lines, providing a sput to the rest of the economy

The breathtaking economic development of the southern parts of the country, aided by Hong Kong and farwancse entrepreneurs, succeeded beyond Deng's wildest dreams. Using freedoms curved out by Deng and expanding on them, the new entrepreneurs virtually junked the entire state-controlled economy. Hong Kong, now firmly connected to the powerhouse of economic growth in China, leapt into an era of double digit economic growth and generprosperity. Hong Kung inessmen were ready to de-

ify the name of Deng Xiaoping. Deng had previously undicated that he did not favour any form of full-scale democracy lor Hong Kong and even spoke of the need for the Chinese government to intervene in the colony if irestability broke out.

As Deng grew older and wor-As Deng grew older and worrying reports about his health
filled the pages of the local
press, there was much talk about
how Hong Kong would manage
after the great man died. The
stock market gyrated in tune
with the optimistic and pessimistic reports of his health. But
his and was a long time coming his end was a long time coming. and the jitters gave way to what stockbrukers called a "discounting of the Deng factor".

MI I I

Nevertheless, it remains hard to dispel fears over the uncertainty produced by Deng's death, Although Tiananmen's verely dented his image, Deng retained the status of "Hong Kong's protector". No one eke has stepped in th fill this role. With just four months until Deng's dream is realised and the colony reverts to China, the lack of a protector makes Hong

Kong people uneasy. Leading article, page 15

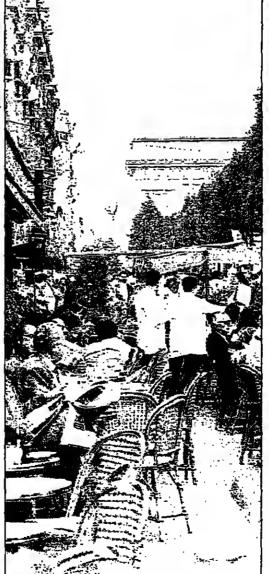


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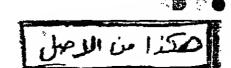
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THE INDEPENDENT • FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1997

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economy in dollar terms worth less than that of Britain. # Only about a fifth of the population lives in cities. Around 800 million of the population m Per capita GNP has in creased from \$360 in 1980 to \$630 in 1994. The richest 20 per cent of the population earns 60 times what the population earns 60 times what

the poorest earns.

There were about 650,000 piwate firms in China, em-ploying 8.22 million people, at the end of 1995. By 2000; private business is expected to account for about 20 per cent of output. ■ Just under a quarter of the world's televisions are made in China. There are about 3 million

forces - slightly less than the population of Ireland. China borders 16 other countries. Its frontier is 13,759 miles long.

China has an area of 3,705,408 square: miles, 314 times the size of Belgium. The official language of China is Mandarin, spoker by 70 per cent of the population.

people in the Chinese armed



Paying respect: A soldier of the People's Liberation Army saluting towards a flag flying at half-mast yesterday in Tiananmen Square, Peking, in honour of the death on Wednesday of China's leader Deng Xiaoping, aged 92

Photograph: AP

Low-key funeral planned without

Ted Plafker

The funeral committee charged with arranging the funeral of Deng Xiaoping declared a six-day period of mourning yes-terday. It said a memorial meeting, attended by 10,000 people, would be held on Tuesday at the Great Hall of the People. Deng's ashes will be scattered rather than saved. and foreign leaders will out attend his funeral.

The committee released a letter which Deng's widow, Zhuo Lin, and his five childreo sent to Jiang Zemin. "The last thing thot we do for Comrade Xiapping should embody his spirit and character, and our grief should be expressed in the sim-plest, solemnest way," the let-ter said. The family noted Deng's request that his organs for transplant.

What strikes many Peking residents today as unimaginable is the ootioo that Deng's passing will lead to turmoil, demon-

"Deng's death will not have the slightest impact. Jiaog arranged, and nobody is about to start a protest. What would they protest about? Just to make a fuss? Nothing will hap-pen," predicted a Peking resi-

dent in his 40s. Indeed, by the end of the day, there was little to suggest that Jiang Zemin's careful arrangements were in immediate danger of unravelling. In what China's paranoid security forces must consider fortuitous timing students of Peking's historically volatile universities are on holiday until Monday.

Still, police are taking nothing for granted. One student who has spent the holiday on campus at Peking University said a police acquaintance sought to question him yesterday about any actions being planned by studeots for next week when school resumes.

On the Avenue of Eternal Peace, technicians could be seen tending to a surveillance camera, perhaps hoping to enstrations, or any sort of open sure that the thoroughfare lives

Journey for peace that began with a secret mission to Peking

Washingtoo — For a young East Asia specialist at the National Security Council, it was the journey of a lifetime. In the 22 years since the Communist revolution of 1949, oo Ameri-

can had officially visited China. No diplomatic ties existed between the countries, just intermittent embassy-level contacts The tectonic plates of global in places like Warsaw and diplomacy moved as a result. Geneva - until Winston Lord found himself on a Pakistani air-- craft in July 1971, accompanying his boss, Henry Kissinger, on - a super-secret trip to Peking.

The China visit everyone remembers today is President But that truly historic encounter revolution. Heavy, of course, leverage with the Soviet Union

Rupert Cornwall hears of the softly softly approach that brought China out of diplomatic isolation was first off the plane when we would have been impossible without the Kissinger mission, landed. For some reason, he

born of the interest of Washington and Peking in thwarting the ambitions of their common rival, the Soviet Union.

diplomacy moved as a result.

It was very dramatic, flying past the Himalayas and K-2, then arriving in Peking in the middle of the night," Mr Lord said, "As we approached Chi-nese ainspace I went to the front of the plane so I could claim to that began 25 years ago today. into Chinese territory since the na, we reckoned, would give us and get them into the UN."

hadn't taken enough shirts, and was ranting and raving about it. Eventually he borrowed one, but it was too hig and had the label 'made in Taiwan'. I romember making a joke to Hen-ry about it, You've lost your shirt to the Chinese already."

The summit six months later needed little such improvisation. Its rationale was obvious. "Clearly the Communist world was no longer to be seen as a

-and they did. Within months, US did not exchange ambaseven weeks, relations with Moscow improved greatly. We also hoped to use Russian and Chinese infloence to end the war in Vietnam," Mr Lord said. And even deeper considera-

tions weighed too. "We knew that at some point a country with a quarter of the world's population was going to matter. There were things in it for both sides. China was vulnerable then ... Ties with us would would help them break their iso-

Even though China and the

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sadors until 1979, the summit in effect codified Sino-American relations. Its main fruit was the document known as the

"Shanghai Communique". It began with a long section setting out the countries' differing views on major issues. "The Chinese wanted this," Mr Lord said. "They argued that if we made clear our disagreethe communiqué more credible. And 25 years later, it is still con-

crowning moment of a presidency that 30 months later would end in disgrace.

Much has changed in the quarter century since, during which Mr Lord served as US Ambassador to Peking from 1985 to 1989, and as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian affairs during President Clinton's first term. "For one thing the Chinese are much ments, it would make the rest of - stronger. The economy is surging, they are a growing military power. The leadership context bedrock document between us." more of a collective leadership, against any resurgeoce in For Richard Nixon, it was the Jiang Zemin is in charge, but Japanese militarism."

clearly there's less flexibility. They have to work out a consensus which makes things more difficult, and after Deng's death there's bound to be jock-

But Mr Lord argues that in their different ways, both sides need each other. "We account for one-third of Chinese exports, they have a \$40hn trade surplus with us and they want access to US technology. Also despite Taiwan, Hoog Kong, human rights, arms and nuclear sales, and all the rest, the American presence in East Asia not entirely unwelcome to



secret mission to Peking

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Leo Rosten

Leo Rosten wrote a torrent of self; and how the special culture books of which two have re- of the Jews, their distinctive style mained classics, The Education of Hyman Kaplan (1937), and The Joys of Yiddish (1968).

The first was the product of an unhappy phase in his life during the Depression when, although he had two degrees, one from the University of Chicago and the other from the London School of Economics, he was out of work and he taught English to immigrants at night school. It was there that he met Kaplan, lately from Poland. who thought he knew English - as he thought he knew everything - but hoped to perfect it. and who tortured the language as readily as he ionured his

Rosten captured his experience in a succession of short stories which he wrote for the New *lorker* under the name Leonard Q. Ross. They reappeared in book form in 1937 as The Education of Hyman Kaplan and were an instant success. A typical missive from

Dear Mr Mandelbaum, Sarah and me want to buy refrigi-mator. Sarah wants bad. She is say-ing "Hymie, the eyes-box is terrible. Leeking. Is true." So I answer Sarah

by me is OK refrigimator.

Because you are in formiture so Γ m whing about. How much will cost re-friginator? Is expensil, mybe by you is more cheap a little. But it must not have short circuit, If your eye falls on a bargain please pick it up.

The book was enjoyed even by the most English of English literan such as P.G. Wodehouse and Evelyn Waugh. The Nurses Association of America asked for a warning wrapper to be put round it because parients who read it were in danger of bursting their stitches. Hyman Kanlan hecame to America what The Good Soldier Svejk (by Jaroslav Hasek) was to Czechoslovakia.

Some Jews, however, were not amused, and one of them, Nathan Ausbel, an authority on Jewish folklore and Jewish humour, wrote: "Jewish dialect jokes are not Jewish at all. hut the confections of anti-Semites who delight in ridiculing and slandering Jews."

The book was in fact an affectionate portrait both of the immigrants and their teachers. Rosten tried to recapture his success in two later volumes, The Return of Hyman Kaplan (1959) and O Kaplan! My Kaplan! (1976), but they did not have the same impact. Most newcomers were by then Hispanic and the joke was lost on

Rosten did rather better with The Joys of Yiddish (1968), which was inspired not only by the intrusions of Yiddish words such as "chutzpah" into the American and English language, hut by what he called Yinglish, by which he meant English forms of Yiddish expressions such as: "Clever he isn't" or "It's all right by me".

It illustrated, he said, "how heautifully a language reflects the vitality and variety of life it-

of thought, their subtleties of feeling, are reflected in Yiddish, and how this in turn has enriched the English we use today". It too was an instant

Rosten was by then estab-

lished as something of a popular philosopher, with fairly conventional views and a regular column in the now-defunct magazine Look. He also made frequent appearances in the leading American newspapers and on television. In 1971 he wrote an angry polemic, 4 Trumpet for Reason, against student unrest, and expected a fierce backlash, but didn't receive one, possibly because the unrest was over by the time the book appeared and partly because he had treated a passing phenomenon as a lasting trend. Rosten was horn in Lódz in Poland, and came with his family to the United States in 1911;

He produced a spate of novels (many of them turoed into films, such as Sleep, My Love 1948, and The Dark Corner, 1946), thrillers, screenplays (for films such as The Velvet Touch. 1948) and essays. One book, Hollywood: the movie colony, the movie makers (1941), a sociological examination of the film industry, was all set to become a best-seller, but it was upstaged by Pearl Harbor.

he grew up in Chicago.

Although Rosten relished popular acclaim he was basically a scholar and taught political science and sociology at Chicago, Columbia, Yale and the New School for Social Research in New York. During the Second World War he was Deputy Director of the Office of War Information in Washington, and in 1945 he became a special con-sultant to the Secretary of War and was sent on missions to France, Germany and England.

Rosten was an invelerate

Anglophile. He had enjoyed his years at the LSE, was amazed by the enthusiastic reception Kaplan had received in the English press, and returned to London whenever opportunity dictated and even when it didn't. He lived in considerable luxury in a penthouse flat in Sutton Place, one of the most exclusive areas of New York, and rented a mews flat in Mayfair. England represented the tranquillity he could not find in America. He loyed to rummage in English bookshops and wear English clothes - he contrived to display a subdued elegance - to go to the London theatres and entertain and he entertained in London clubs. He himself was a member of the Savile, the Reform and the Garrick.

Chaim Bermant

Leo Culvin Rosten, nuthor and social scientist: born Lódz, Poland 11 April 1908; married 1935 Priscilla Mead (deceased: one son, two daughters), 1960 Gertrude Zimmerman; died 19



The Vizier of Sokoto

Alhaji Junaidu was Nigeria's foremost poet, historian and Islamic scholar. The Vizier to the Sultan of Sokoto, in north Nigeria, he was the son of Muhammad Buhari, the almost blind vizier who had negotiated with the British officers after the battle of Sokoto in 1903 which marked the beginning of colonial rule.

The family have held the title of Vizier since circa 1818; collectors of manuscript books, recorders of the history of the Sokoto caliphate, authors of poems and literary prose-works. the viziers have sustained for nearly two centuries the tradition of high scholarship in classical Arabic.

It is for his works of historical scholarship that the wider world will remember Alhaji Junaidu. His subject was the Sokoto caliphate, a 19th-century Islamic reformist state which was the largest in pre-colonial Africa. He wrote in Arabic and Hausa, hut he put so many of his ideas and so much of his material into my book The Sokoto Culiphate (1967), that it too can be counted as "his" book though in English.

He became Vizier in 1948, on the death of his brother (his father had died in 1910). As Vizier in the critical 1950s and 1960s Alhaji Junaidu played an important political role in northern Nigeria. He was one of the key intermediaries between the Sultan of Sokoto, who as the Amir of Nigeria's Muslims was a spiritu-

garden, with its pomegranates al leader of great restraint, and the forceful Sardauna of Sokoand other fruit, on the escarpto - a flamboyant politician. premier of the newly self-govment beyond the city wall. Alhaji Junaidu. hlind like his erning Northern Region and

would-be architect of a revived Sokoto caliphate". As a friend of the Sardauna's, Alhaji Junaidu accompanied him on many journeys to places where his wit and diplomatic skills were an asset and a pleasant relief. But, as scholar and representative of the Sultan, Alhaji Junaidu carried within him that moral authority which gave "Sokoto" a particular resonance far beyond

He was impressive to watch. particularly in the trivial incidents that showed how country people set him apart from the more rich and the more powerful. His big Pontiac might get bogged down in the long deep pools of mud that replaced stretches of the road through the forests. Farmers would appear and bodily lift the car (with the Wazzir - Vizier - in it) the 30 yards or more to the other side. Other "hig men" would have to get out and negotiate a heavy price to pass through the slough. Not the Waziri.

the city or the province.

Politics and the throng of courtiers tired him. That darkgreen Pontiac always betrayed his whereabouts if he left his house. To escape, he would climb into the back of "the tortoise" ("kunkuru", a Cîtroën 2CV), his turban scraping the cushion, the manuscripts were canvas roof, and be driven to his in their traditional leather bags.

father for the last years of his life, continued to teach each afternoon. His son Dr Sambo Junaidu would read aloud the text and his father interpreted and commented on it. He was a master of grammar and meaning. with a formidable memory, who could quote poetry and prose seemingly without end. On the long, eight-hour jour-

neys by car on the back roads to Lagos (where he would attend political meetings as a member of the Northern Region House of Assembly) Albaji Junaidu used to compose or recite poetry. Once, to pass the time while hearing the Western Regional Premier, Chief S.L. Akintola, speak at length in Yoruha, he composed a poem comparing him to a dove and imitating in Arabic the bird likerhythms and tones. In all, he wrote some 50 works and over 50 poems, mostly in manuscript.

had no big estates; on emancipating their slaves, they had given them the land they farmed. People brought them gifts instead. He did, though, keep a stallion, Danda, for ceremonial occasions in the courtyard, by the library; but otherwise there was no ostentation, in dress or furnishings. The library had a

Leafing through the texts he would recall hearing as a small child the flap-flap of the sandals as the long-distance messengers ran in to see his father, he would discuss how horses had to be trained to face camels (whose smell they hated), aware that ancient Lydian cavairy had once had that problem too, or he would comment on passages of Galen. Hippocrates and Plato whose work he knew only

through classic Arabic texts. Though his death may seem to mark the end of a certain intellectual tradition within Nigeria, there still are men and women, influenced by him and by others in that close circle, for whom deep scholarship and personal asceticism remain a vocation. But it will be difficult for anyone to be quite so lacking in pomposity or self-regard, so reluctant to voice complaint or to earn so much simple affection and respect from so many.

Junaidu, was turbanned Vizier in succession to his father on 22

Murray Last

Junnidu dan Muhammadu Buhari, poet and Arabic scholar: born Sokoto, Nigeria 1906; Principal, Kadi School 1943-48; Sultan's Legal Adviser on Reli-gious Affairs 1946-97; Vizier of Sokoto 1948-97; Member and Legal Adviser in the Northern Region House of Assembly 1951-66; died Sokoto 9 January 1997.

Stan Pearson

Stan Pearson was a lovely foot-baller, a beguiling mutture uf subtle visionary and unflashy technician, and he was one of the most satisfyingly complete inside forwards of his day.

He provided the attacking brains, and a lot of the goals, for the swashbucklingly nttractive Manchester United side as-sembled by Matt Busby after the Second World War, and, but for the fact that he numbered Wilf Mannion and the incomparable Raich Carter among his contemporaries, he might have added significantly to his inap-

propriately meagre total of eight England caps.
A supporter of his local club since the age of seven, the Salford-horn Pearson rose inresistibly through the ranks of junior football before achieving his boyhood ambition by join-ing the Red Deviis, signing amateur forms as a 16-year-old in 1935 and turning professional 18 months later. There followed a sensational senior début in November 1937, when he set up four goals in a 7-1 victory at Chesterfield, and by season's end he was a powerfully emerging force in the team that secured promotion to the old First Division.

Then, with the gifted rookie on the threshold of what promised to be a majestic career, the war intervened to consign a whole generation of emerging talent to footballing limbo. However, though army service took him to India and Burma, there was time to guest for Newcastle, Brighton and Queen's Park Rangers as well as to represent his own club in wartime competitions, and when the conflict ended the unscathed 26-year-old was eager for the game and approaching his prime. And how he blossomed. Slotting stylishly into one of the most exhilarating of all forward lines - Jimmy De-laney, Johnny Morris, Jack Rowley, Pearson himself and Charlie Mitten - hc became a key factor as Bushy's hucca-neering side enchanted the massive post-war crowds, hungry for entertainment after six years uf

being denied top-level succer. Pearson scored heavily, 149 times in 345 outings for United, but his greatest worth was in creating opportunities for learnmates through an instinctive awareness of where they would run and a knack of reaching them with adroit first-time distribution. His hallmark was accuracy, whether delivering

His eldest son, Alhaji Usman



raking crossfield passes or de-lightful close-range flicks and clides, and, though there was nothing flamboyaut about him. the supporters leved him for his craftsmanship. For

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He was never the fastest man afield and his shot was not the most powerful - the majority of his strikes coming from inside the penalty box - but he made un for that through his sharp intelligence, masterful ball control and enormous staming which enabled him to forage ceaselessly for possession. Yet, even though Pearson and his attacking partners could take the breath away. the United side they graced so thrillingly was to endure a nightmare of championship frustration. They finished as litle runners up in four out of the five seasons immediately after the war and did not claim the coveted crown until 1952.

In 1948, however, they beat Blackpool to win the FA Cup in what was recognised as the most captivating final to date; there are these who maintain, even now, that Wembley has yet to host its equal. The Seasiders, who included Stanley Matthews. led 2-1 at half-time but United fought back to win 4-2 with Pearson supplying the crucial third goal 10 minutes from the end.

That year, at the age of 29, the Old Trafford stalwart was rewarded for his sparkling form with an overdue international call-up, and he continued to represent his country on an occasional basis for the next four years, his most memorable contribution being the two goals which beat Scotland at Hampden Park in 1952. On the club front, Pearson's consistency became a hyword in Manchester and be missed only a handful of games through injury before a combination of age, and the new wave of precocious youngsters known as the Busby Babes, overtook him in 1953/54.

That February he was sold to Second Division Bury for £4,500 and he served the Shakers rovally for three years, netting 56 times in 122 League starts, before moving tu Chester in the Third Division (North) as player-boss in 1957. Still in splendid physical fettle as he approached his 40th birthday. Pearson helped his new club reach the Welsh Cup Final in 1958 before retiring as a player in 1959. He remained at Sealand Road as manager but his team struggled in the League's lower reaches and this charming hut quiet fellow did not relish the pressure, so he resigned in November 1961.

Thereafter Pearson, who was twice widowed, ran a newsagent's shop and post office in Prestbury, Cheshire, until the 1980s. He continued to be an avid fan of his beloved Red Devils.

Ivan Ponting

Stanley Clare Pearson, footballer: born Salford, Lancashire 11 Jan-uary 1919; player for Manchester United 1935-54, Bury 1954-57, Chester 1957-59; capped cight times for England 1948-52; manager for Chester 1957-61; died Alderley Edge, Cheshire 17 February 1997.

Iris Freeman

Many thought management ed them as she treated everyone and unions behaved like squab-bling children during Fleet Street's industrial relations wars of the 1970s. Only Iris Freeman carried the insight into the practice of employment law.

When one particularly diffiformidable Jocelyn Stevens. determined union representatives looked like ending in a strike, she told them she was going to leave them until they stopped acting like naughty infants. And she walked out, locking the door behind ber. Three hours later, she unlocked the door and they emerged with a deal and an enduring af-

- with the respect they deserved and an unwavering be-

lief that everything was possible. It was a belief that she carried with her through her own three outstandingly successful careers - as wife and mother, as cult confrontation between the a lawver and as an author.

She had been brought up to then managing director of the believe that a woman's first Daily Express, and the equally duty was to raise a family and. among all her more worldly successes, she was always proudest of her role as a wife and mother. Her marriage to David Free-man, the founder of the City law firm DJ. Freeman, was marvellously happy. They had fallen in love at first sight and stayed that way until the day she died. They married in 1950, fection for a lawyer who treat- three years after she graduated



from University College London in Psychology with Sociology and Philosophy. While he was building his practice, she raised three children, all of

whom went on to successful careers in business and the media. But her devotion to her family never led her to believe that was all there was to her life. At the age of 40 she qualified as a awyer and joined D.J. Freeman to create its specialist employ-ment group. She and David

Freeman had spotted the opening created by the new employment legislation of the 1970s and over the following years Iris Freeman huilt one of Britain's leading employment practices which has handled many high-profile cases. When George Davies was sacked from Next, he turned to D.J. Freeman, as did Peter Robinson of Woolwich Building Society and many other senior executives. Many leading QCs today like lawyers helped create a family

Lord Irvine of Lairg received some of their first briefs from Iris Freeman.

She was a pioneer not only in employment law but also for the position of women in City law firms. One of her numerous legacies is the fact that today D.J. Freeman has a higher proportion of women partners than any other City law firm. Unlike many of his generation, David Freeman never felt threatened by clever women and his pride in his wife's achievements gave him the confidence to make the firm more open and meritocratic than many of its older and stuffier compentors. Her enthusiasm for every case, her commitment to her clients and her encouragement of young

when examined. The judge re-

jected her appeal and she ap-

pealed to the Court of Appeal

but no appeal had been heard

atmosphere, which still characterises the firm and is rarely found in large City practices.

Iris Freeman had an irrepressible optimism about life. For her, no door was ever. closed - solutions could always be found to the bloodiest labour disputes, the most recalcitrant child could always be helped to pass an exam. And, when she felt that it was time to retire from practising law, she re-solved to realise her childhood dream of becoming an author. At the age of 63, she decided that no one had properly told the extraordinary story of Lord Denning and that she now would. And within three years she produced a critically acclaimed biography, Lord Den-ning a life (1993), that, for the

first time, properly chronicled the life and times of one of Britain's most remarkable lawyers.

Like so many before him. Denning fell under her spell and author and subject developed a strong friendship. Halfway through the book, this caused her a period of deep anguish. She profoundly disagreed with his helief that successive waves of immigration had undermined the England he loved. For someone so proud of her Jewish heritage, this was intensely troubling. Yet she had also become fond of Denning and did not want to do anything to hurt him. In the end, she found a way of assessing his views which was accurate and helped too the reader to understand their origins. It is a tribute to her fair-

ness that in doing so she retained both her fidelity to the historical record and Denning's friendship. At the time of her death she was working on a new

biography of Lord Goodman. Her final illness came on suddenly and was borne with characteristic fortitude. Her life remains a testament to her beliefs - in the importance of family and that, if you treat others fairly and with respect.

anything is possible. Michael Sherrard

Iris Margaret Alberge, writer and lawyer, born London 7 July 1927; partner, D.J. Freeman 1970-86, consultant 1986-94; married 1950 David Freeman (two sons, one daughter); died London 17 February 1997.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

KINSEY On 7 February to Stephen and Janet, at John Radeliffe Hospital, a son, Rufus George Christopher, a brother for Edward and Peter, Always

Announcements for Gazette 2IRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be rent in writing to the Gazette Editor.
The independent, I Canada Square, Casary Wharf, London Et 4 SOL, telephoned in 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 1711-293 2020 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 26.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette an nouncements I notices, functions, Forth-coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh vo Renal Survey County Hospital, Guildford, S-and Chartestrates School 22-22

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays King Harald V of Norway, 60; Sir John Bourn, Comparetter and A

John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General, 63: Professor Ruth Bowden, anatomist, 82: Mr Simon Coombs MP, 50; Miss Jilly Cooper, author and journalist, 60: M Hubert de Giveneby, fashion designer, 70; Mr Michael Deakin, documentary film maker, 58; Mr Leslie Durbin, silversmith, 84; Dame Janet Fookes MP. 61; Sir John Goulden, UK Permanent Representative. North Atlantic Council, 56: Mr Carron Greig, company chairman, 72: Sir Michael Grylls MP. 63; Sir Conrad Heron, former senior civil servant, 81; Sir Regi-nald Hibbert, former ambassador to France, 75; Sir John McGregor Hill, former chairman, British Nuclear Fuuls, 76: Lord Hunter, a former Sen-

ator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 84; Mr Peter McEnery, ac-tur, 57; Mr Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe, 73; Professor Sir Rupert Myers, scientist, 76; General Sir Roben Pascoe, former Adjulani-General, 65; Sir Ashley Ponsonby. former Lord-Lieutenant of Oxford-shire, 76: Professor John Prescon, principal. Wye College, 60: Li-Gen Sir John Richards, former Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, 70: Mr Alan Rickman, actor, 51: Professor Fredrick Rimmer. Emeritus Professor of

Music, Glasgow University, 83; Miss Nina Simone, singer, 63; Mr Richard

Turner-Warwick, surgeon and urologist 72; Professor Leslic Wagner. Principal and Chief Executive, Leeds Metropolitan University, 54; Mr David Wood, actor and playwright, 53.

Anniversaries

Births: John Henry Newman, Cardinal, 1801; Wystan Hugh Auden, poet, 1907: Douglas Bader, fighter pi-lot, 1910. Deaths: Baruch Spinoza. philosopher, 1677; Jethro Tull, agricultural writer, 174t; Howard Walter Florey, Baron Florey, pathologist, 1968. On this day: the New Statesman was lounded, 1931; identity cards were abolished in Britain, 1952. Today is the Feast Day of St George of Amastris, S1 Germanus of Granfel, St Peter Damian, St Robert South-well and St Severian of Scythopolis.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 5.1 tpm.

United Synagogues: 0181-343 8989. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portoguese Jews Congregation: 0171-239 2573. New London Synagogue Office and University Congregation: 0171-239 2573. New London Synagogue Office and University Congregation: 0171-239 2573.

Strike-out provision did not apply to stayed proceedings cil; Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice

Where proceedings were stayed by order of the court, the provisions of Order 17, rule 11(9), automatically striking out the action if no request for a hearing date were made within 15 months of the close of pleadings, ceased to apply unless ex-

Thorpe, Lord Justice Waller)

10 February 1997

pressly preserved by the order. The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the defendant, Avon County Council, against the decision of Judge Batterbury, sitting in Bath County Court on 34 March 1995, that an action by the plaintiff, Cynthia Whitehead, had not been struck out automatically under

before 30 June 1994. rule Order 17, rule 11(9). In January 1995 the defen-The plaintiff's action was for dant sought a declaration that damages for injuries to her the action had been automatback. Pleadings closed on 22 ically struck out. It contended April 1992 and the 15-month that although a stay imposed a

LAW REPORT

21 February 1997

procedural bar on the taking of tion of the particular order, in period under Order 17, rule 1(9), was to have expired on further steps in the action, the action still subsisted and rule 22 July 1993. But the time for requesting a hearing date was . 11(9) had the effect of autoextended by the court until 30 matically striking out the pro-September 1993, thus post-poning the "guillotine date" to 30 June 1994. Then in Sepceedings when the guillotine period expired. Alternatively, if the plaintiff was prevented tember 1993 the proceedings from requesting a hearing date were stayed pending examina-tion of the plaintiff by the dewhile the action was stayed, she could still apply for an extenfendant's psychiatrist. The sion of time for making such a plaintiff appealed against the request, in order to keep the acorder because she wished to tion alive, and since she failed have a companion present to do so, it was automatically struck out under the rule. Andrew Collender QC and Cluisto-

pher Russell (Collyer-Bristow, for Bennett Metcalfe, Bristol) for the defendaru; Edwin Glasgow QC and Pe-ter Langlois (Campbell Hooper, for Faulkners, Frome) for the plaintiff.

Lord Justice Waller said the aim of the rules could also be question was one of construc- achieved by the court itself

the context of the facts of the case, and of the rules. The philosophy of the rules appeared from Order 17, rule 11(2)(b) to be that the automatic directions were to have effect "subject to any directions by the court".

In construing the rules, the court would bear in mind that their aim was to take matters out of the parties' hands so far as time-keeping was concerned, because, as the Master of the Rolls said in Downer & Downer Ltd v Brough [1996] 1 WLR 575 at 582, they "cannot be relied to act with expedition". But as Downer showed. (a) if orders were inconsistent with the automatic directions, those directions might well cease to have effect, and (b) the

such as Order 17, rule 11(9) in the background it was critically important, where the court made an order outside the automatic directions, that the parties be clear as to whether the

draconian rule applied or not. If the order specified a time for the operation of the rule, the imposition of a stay could not prevent an application to extend such time.

Where the court made an order staying proceedings without words in the order preserving the date by which the plaintiff was obliged and able to request a hearing, an order for a stuy was inconsistent with the automatic directions. It followed that on the proper construction of the rules and on the authority of Downer the automatic directions ceased to apply; therefore rule 11(9) must also cease to apply.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

For Hong Kong the uncertainty lives on

o Deng is dead. For many, the transferring Hong Kong back to more newsworthy headline vesterday might have been: "Deng has been alive for the past six years". It seems the Chinese government had made contingency plans and that the death of their 92-year-old paramount leader failed to take them by surprise. So it is safe to assume that little will change as a result.

Nevertheless, this is a moment for us to pause and consider the future for the most populous nation on earth. For there is an important item of unfinished business that we have with China-the hand-over of Hong Kong, which is to be concluded in three mooths' time; and much about the future of the colony is still unknown.

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Of course we do not presume to tell the Chinese government what to do. We hold back from declaring democratic capitalism to be a global value system, and urging the conversion of a quarter of the world's population to the virtues of Coca-Cola and high energy consumption. Human rights, on the other hand, are global values and we will continue to lecture the Chinese authorities about them. But on Hong Kong our appeal is primarily to their self-interest.

Deng was the intellectual and political father of the arrangement for China. "One country, two systems", which will preserve Hong Kong's capitalist system and a degree of autonomy for 50 years, was his ingemous fix to assure the residents of the colony that their future was not in doubt. Deng was always described as a pragmatist.

But Deng will also be remembered in Hong Kong as the man who sent the tanks into Tiananmen. Square, ending any hope that China could in the short term have a peaceful transition to democracy. Neither Hong Kong nor China itself have yet been reconciled to these events. Deng's death may begin the process. but as yet everyone is still tip-toeing around the issue. This week, the best that the normally outspoken Madeleine Albright could manage was to talk of the Tiananmen Square "actions" as "troublesome".

There were hopeful signs from Hong Kong yesterday that the spirit of pragmatism will be what survives Deng. Governor Chris Patten went to the de facto embassy of China in the colony to pay his respects. It is the first time that Mr Patten, regarded by the Chinese leadership as the whore of the East, has been permitted to enter this inner sanctum. The first



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aircraft (a test flight) landed at Hong Kong's new airport, which was once the most concrete sign of the violent disagreements between London and Peking. And Tung Chee-hwa, who will take over from Mr Patten as chief executive of Hong Kong, announced that the civil service heads of department will all be staying on, guaranteeing continuity.

So far, so good. But there are several months to go. before the transfer of power, and the party congress to decide on the new Chinese leadership will not be before October. Between now and then, a great deal will happeo in both Hong Kong and China that could be far more destabilising than the widely predicted death of Deng.

It may be that now that Deng is dead, the new leadership - perhaps more coherent, more sure of itselfcan consolidate reform, and in the process take a more emollient view of Hong Kong. But there is just as big a possibility that Hong Kong will become a political football in the succession struggle. Though the paramountcy of Jiang Zemin is assured,

there could still be much jostling lower down the chain of command.

There is a debate about China's own future that could be played out over Hong Kong. The idea of "socialism with Chinese characteristics" -China's unique fusion of capitalism and socialism - is still an unstable mix that could be explosive.

Hong Kong needs to know that it will remain a place where the rule of law operates. That means that government as well as citizens are subject to law, and that the civil rights won under British rule will not be undermined.

Hong Kong is important to China's self-interest as the main junction box between mainland China and the world. The rest of the world is watching: the United States, in particular, has made a point of saying that it will regard buman rights in Hong Kong as a bench-mark for relations between Washington and Peking. Ms Albright will not always be as tactful.

Then there is Taiwan to consider, another appeal to China's perception of its own interests: if Hong Kong can be shown to operate successfully under the "one country, two systems" label, then the same principle may eventually be transferable across the Taiwan strait.

When Deng saw Lord MacLehose back in 1978 to discuss the handover of power, he told the thengovernor to return to the people of Hong Kong and "put their hearts at ease". Jiang Zemin and the others who will supervise the transfer of power in Hong Kong should take heed of this injunction.

Savaging the **Euro-sceptics**

come on in, Sir Geoffrey's on sparkling form tonight," was the famous entry for a New Statesman competition which asked for words to chill the heart on arrival at a party. But Sir Geoffrey, now Lord Howe, was indeed on sparkling form yesterday, suggesting that he might not vote Tory if there was much more of this Euro-sceptic nonsense.

Leave aside the fact that, as a peer. he doesn't have a vote. Once the architect of monetarism, then a dead sheep, Lord Howe has completed another metamorphosis into the sort of principled pro-European we want to support. A welcome guest indeed.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Ms S: the need for help and sympathy

Sir: In November 1982, I was threatened with the same treatment as Ms S (leading article, 19 February), because my child was in the breech position. I was so frightened I left the country in order to give birth naturally, without any drugs and without being cut open. I had a wonderful, relatively pain-free birth and my daughter is now 14 years old and doing well.

As a mental health social worker, approved by the local authority, I knew exactly what

Ms S has my fullest sympathy. Before her ordeal I am sure she was "in full possession of her senses" - by the time this saga is settled and over she may well be in need of the mental health services. Giving hirth is stressful enough, but to have to conteod with the full weight and wrath of the medical profession as well is enough to make any sane woman become ill. Ms S will need all the help and support we can give her. MARY JEAN BOWLES London SE8

Sir: The purpose of the Mental Health Act is the compulsory treatment of mental disorder.

To what extent can a Caesarean section be considered treatment for a mental disorder? In the case of Tameside and Glossop Acute Services Trust vs CH, 22 January 1996. Mr Justice Wall confirmed that, on the particular facts, a Caesarean section was treatment for the meotal disorder suffered and could, therefore, be carried out without the consent of the patient, under the statutory anthority of

section 63.

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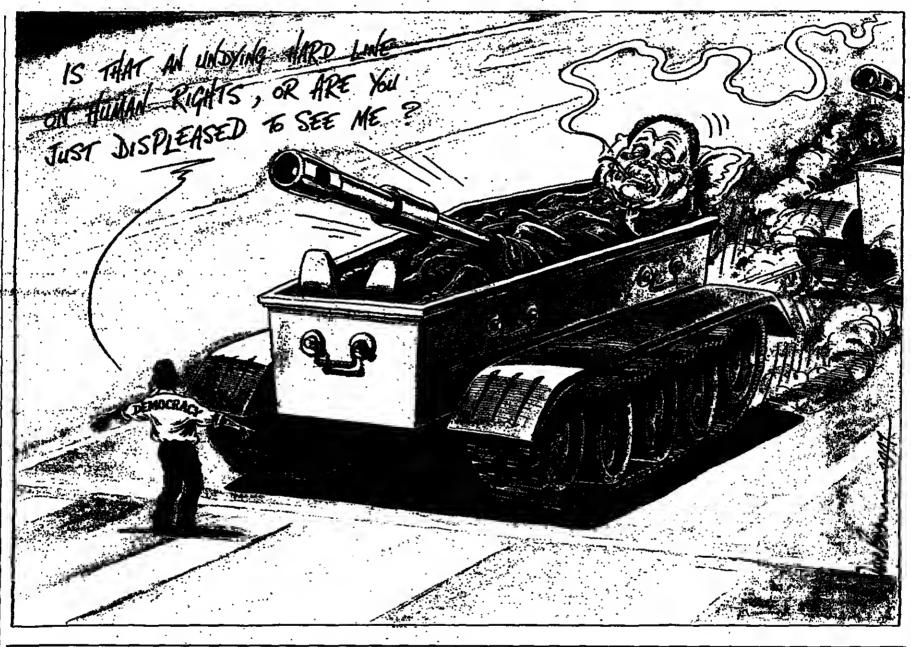
This approach can be contrasted with the case of C, who was detained under the Meotal Health Act suffering from schizophreoia, but who was cotitled to withhold consent to an operatioo to amputate his gangrenous leg. In that case there was deemed to he oo coonection between the mental disorder suffered and the physical disorder of gangreoe and the court upheld the patieot's right to make a decisioo which might lead to his

Your article is right to question whether refusing treatment in these circumstances is evidence of mental disorder; equally worrying from a civil rights perspective is whether the treatment authorised by section 63 of the Mental Health Act can consist of intervention of what appears to he a purely physical nature. STEPHEN JONES

Liverpool John Moores University

Sir: It is well established that a person cannot be forced to undergo medical treatment for the benefit of another. So, for example, a father cannot be compelled to donate his bonemarrow to benefit his child, even if without it the child will almost certainly die.

One then comes to consider the case of a pregnant woman refusing medical treatment, which refusal will result in the death of her unborn child as well as her own. Putting aside the rather vexed question of whether the rights of men to refuse medical treatment are greater than the rights accorded to womeo in these circumstances, and the clear but difficult conflict between the rights



of a woman and her unborn child, can it really be suggested that the rights of a foetus are greater than those of a child with a lifethreatening but curable medical HEATHER LAWRENCE Gray's Irun .

Reform that is long overdue

London WC1

Sir: Andrew Marr ("The voices that may dash all hopes of reform", 19 February) illustrates why the debate about how we govern ourselves must not be left to politicians. They are understandably, under our electoral system - preoccupied during the pre-election period with the need to impress focus groups. win over floating voters, and court the media.

Yet surveys such as the State of the Nation poll, carried out by ICM for the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust, show that public support for democratic reform is.

People's confidence in politicians has plummeted. They want to have more of a say in decisions which affect their lives to feel that their opinions matter more often than every five years. This means a more open and accountable government, power decentralised from Westminster, and protection for our rights in law, as well as a proportional voting

It is vital that there is an opportunity for the public to debate these issues with their politicians, and we hope that Charter 88's Democracy Day

meetings, held just before polling day, will provide this. They could also demonstrate to the Labour Party - which can seem strangely unenthusiastic about reform - that in the voters' eyes their proposals are more than just welcome. They are longoverdue. ANDREW PUDDEPHATT Director, Charter 88

London EC1

Give patients a choice of hospital

Sir. Doctors Mark Monaghan and David Jewitt (letter, 18 February) suggest that patients on waiting lists at one hospital should be referred to another where the waiting list is shorter. There are many reasons why

some hospitals have shorter waiting lists than others, the most common of which is that patients do not want to be treated there. Therefore, the suggestion made cannot be good for patient care as it removes the right of the patient and their GP to choose which hospital to go to for treatment.

provide funds for the patients to be treated at their chosen hospital? Dr C BUCKNALL Consultant Cardiologist & Clinical Director

Surely it is more logical to

Mr R SMITH Directorate Manager Cardio-Thoracic Centre Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital London SE1 Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Politics of social worker bashing

Sir: It is both unfair and misleading of the Government to play politics with the professional reputation of social work ("Major must be in a fix if it's political correctness again", 18 February). John Major's recent comments about "politically correct social workers" only show that the Government is so desperate to find a scapegoat that it will happily resort to meaningless

Social work must be open to rigorous scrutiny, a fact cobody in the profession would dispute. Indeed the concept of a regulation and registration council for social. work has widespread support within the profession but the Government is not prepared to take this obvious step to protect the

public The changes to adoption introduced by the Health Scoretary, Stephen Dorrell, have found much support within social services and are nothing radical so why cloak them in the toric which only drives a wedge between social workers and the families who oeed their help?

A recent public opinion poll conducted by NOP for Community Care, found that more than half of the public disagreed with the notion that social workers are an "unnecessary interference" in people's lives. The poll also found that threequarters were opposed to social services being run by private

Fax 0171-293 2056: e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

companies and charities, rather

than by local government. So perhaps ministers are wrong in thinking that there are votes in tired social worker bashing and extending privatisation to services for society most vulnerable and marginalised people, where consumer choice will never be a reality TERRY PHILPOT

Community Care Sutton, Surrey

The myth behind British invention

Sir: Peter Popham's article ("It's all make-believe", 18 February) raises important questions. British engineering, design and manufacture has been in relative decline for a century and a half and for much of that time we have applauded invention. We associate the great engineers with invention: Watt with the separate condenser, Stephenson with the steam locomotive, Parsons with the turbine, Whittle with the gas turbine. Somehow the myth has been generated that the British are especially inventive; then it is believed that the British engineer invents world-beating products but only foreign companies profit by

This self-delusion would be no more than a charming example of chauvinism, were it not associated with a complete misunderstanding of what design is all about. Design is not merely invention, it is getting

a useful product right. More important than invention is the disciplined decision-making needed to solve the thousands of problems that arise between the conception of the design brief and the delivery to the customer of a product which is profitable to own and profitable to make.

Arachnophobia and the dinosaurs

Sir: To your seven theories about extinction of the dinosaurs ("The day the dinosaurs died", 18 February), may I add an eighth?

The later dinosaurs had to share the world with the early ancestors of today's mammals - small and agile creatures - scurrying round their feet. Bearing in mind the attitude of many people to our present domestic livestock, mice and spiders (small and agile), I think the poor old reptiles simply died of fright. The Rev EDDIE TAYLOR Haworth, West Yorkshire

Car-free Camden?

Sir: What a trendy, innovative idea of Camden's to create car-free estates ("So you want to live here? Then we won't let you huy your own car", 15 February). Does this mean that Camden councillors and employees will be selling their cars and closing their own car parks, or is it one law for the Camden commissars and one for the rest of us? Ilford, Essex

Democracy the Swampy way

Sir: Swampy is not, as Norman Webb argues (Letters, 19 February), against democracy. He has simply ooticed that in one important field, road-building, it does not operate.

Any consultation about new roads begins only after the decisioo to build has been made. The dice are loaded from the start. The whole apparatus of spin doctors, PR consultants and glossy brochures is wheeled in to comfort a local population whose chief interest is to take the horrible noise and pollution into somebody else's

Objectors cannot match the resources that the Department of Transport can deploy, not least because the latter charges for access to its documents. Expensive QCs are on hand to clobber into the ground any witnesses on the side of doubt. The Highways Agency which steers the scheme is a quango. The inquiry which follows is a piece of theatre which the public can witness but not

Our son lived for more than two years in the magnificent old oak at Fairmile, which was demolished so casually in the view of millions of television viewers earlier this month. He would like the "strong institutions which thwart corruption" that Mr Webb finds praiseworthy. What he gets are political leaders focused oo the voters of about 100 marginal constituencies, who will determine the outcome of the next general election. He sees greed, selfishness. narrow-mindedness, blinkered vision and political cowardice, and has turned away. He takes no financial beoefits from this society, other than what his pareots earn. The meagre benefits we provide as taxpayers to his colleagues are a good deal less than those taken from us by the DoT's lawyers. His and Swampy's moral base, it seems to us, is secure, and their judgement understandable RICHARD and ELIZABETH COOK

Hamlet blows hot and cold

Sir. With reference to the time of year in Hamlet (letters, 18 and 19 February): yes, the ghost scenes suggest that it is cold, but the Queen, describing Ophelia's death, says her garland has "crow-flowers, oettles, daisies, long purples", and the willow "shows his hoar leaves in the glassy stream". It is not so cold that the gravediggers can't dig graves, or too stormy for Laertes to sail to Paris and back, and Hamlet to set sail for England.

The point is that no particular seasoo is indicated in the play. The chill of the ghost scenes and the floweriness of Ophelia are mental states and complement each other. EMMA TRISTRAM Binsted, West Sussex

Bracing verse

Sir: Noting the further commentary over the obituary about Nora Beloff (18 February), I must remind Jack Pole that although I had enormous respect for her, the poem about the maths master's braces was not written by her, but by me. She was unlikely to have seen Mr Morris's braces because they would normally only be revealed in the boys' changing room. MICHAEL SELSON Rotherham, South Yorkshire

he emperor is dead, long live the emperor.

Xiaoping had passed away, the

world waits to see if China's political system really has

charge since Mr Deng was last seen in public three years ago, must be thinking that his mentor might have timed his death with a little more care. China is only two weeks into the new Year of the Ox. and for the superstitious any unfortunate event before tonight's full moon represents a bad omen for the year. More practically for Mr Jiang, whose priority for the immediate future is maintaining social stability, is the fact that during the Chinese New Year period, up to 90 mil-

lion floating workers are on the move as they travel back to

work after the country's most important public holiday. Secu-rity will he extra tight over the

Mr Jiang and his colleagues had been gearing up for world attention to focus on China in

motherland. Instead, it will now

ical stability in the post-Deng

era. It probably will not be

Communist Party Congress,

held only once every five years,

that the shape of the new top

leadership grouping starts to

fall into place. Even before

Mr Deng's departure, this was

the congress that Mr Jiang

hoped would put the seal on his

status as Mr Deng's official

heir. Mr Jiang - who is also party chief and head of the

army - will have to do some

next few weeks.

day to the news that Deng only thing missing was a senior figure with enough stature to fill Mr Deng's shoes. For the first time since its founding in 1949, the People's Republic of China is without a credible paramount leader, and it is with no little unease that the matured into some sort of col-lective leadership.

President Jiang Zemin, the man who has ostensibly been in

The uncharismatic seventy-year-old Jiang Zemin, thrust to power as a compromise figure after the Tiananmen massacre, is never going to be a patriarch in the mould of Mao or Deng

Deng Xiaoping may have left a legacy of economic modernisation

and political stability to his chosen successor Jiang Zemin, but

The long march to a new order

1997, but for rather different deft political manoeuvring as reasons. The annual gathering of China's parliament, the he seeks to keep the support of National People's Congress, will convene in Peking a week on key personalities and the military. The Congress must establish, for instance, who will take over as prime minister when Li Peng finishes his second term in March 1998. Saturday, and this year's meet-ing of the rubber-stamp body was supposed to be a celebra-tion of the final countdown to Hong Kong's return to the

If Mr Jiang emerges secure after the Congress, as most motheriand. Instead, it will now be dominated by public tributes to Mr Deng, and a private scramble by top leaders to establish their leadership positions.

China's nationalistic run-up to the July I Hong Kong transition will be overshadowed by the uncertainty felt by the rest of the world over China's political stability in the post-Deng analysts at the moment believe he can, he will claim his diplomatic prize of the year - a sum-mit meeting with President Clinton, probably in Washington. And if all goes according to plan, China's year will wind up with the last of the already officially-designated "impor-tant events" of 1997, the diver-which way China is headed. strongly enough to him.

> China may be able to change the course of one of the world's great waterways, but will it for the first time be able to secure a smooth succession of political power? When Chairman Mao died at the end of the Cultural Revolution's 10-year devastation, it needed the army to ation now is totally different,"

democracy is still only a distant prospect, says Teresa Poole says a senior Western diplomat in Jiangsu province and trained in Peking. "When Man died we in the Soviet Union, he rose were at the end of an unprece-dentedly negative decade, one of enormous chaos, huge suf-fering, political exhaustion. It's different now. There are huge numbers of problems in China

situation at all. There is a consion of the Yangtze River for the Three Garnes Dam project.

There is a consensus that economic reform has been right. And that there isn't really a proper alternative to that." Nor is there any obvious alternative as "core" leader to the uncharismatic Mr Jiang. At the moment there are no evident rivals for the top joh.

but we are not in that kind of

Whatever the efforts of the propaganda machine, 70-year-old Mr Jiang was never going propel Mr Deng to paramount old Mr Jiang was never going leader status. "I think the situto be a patriarch in the same mould as Mao and Deng. Born

steadily through the party ranks in the Shanghai municipality before he was unexpectedly elevated to Communist Party chief in the wake of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. He was a compromise figure whose main claim to promotion

start, Mr Deng's protracted decline has allowed the president time to establish some sort of power hase. He has also over the past year sought to put his own mark on Chinese politics with a much-vaunted campaign to create a "spiritual civilisation", an elusive concept in China's

get-rich-quick society.
Mr Jiang's political flair may he limited, but he has one strong card in his hand. China's senior leaders know that a destabilising power struggle would only weaken the hold of the Communist Party. To borrow from Benjamin Franklin, atbeit talking of a very different matter. Mr Jiang and his colleagues might observe the dictum: "We must indeed all hang together, or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately."

If China is to have a "core" leader rather than an emperor, the most pressing question is whether the lacklustre Mr Jiang can steer the country through the next stage of reform and

rom M Jean-Pierre Lachaise, Sir, Many of

concentrated on his political

career to the exclusion of his

personal qualities, but as one

of the few people left alive

Xiaoping from his student days in France, I can testify

to his perhaps unexpected

"Chean-Bierre." he would

love of cricket.

who remembers Deng

Deng Xiaoping have

the tributes to the late

deal with the inherent contra- and mourning ceremonies. dictions of the "socialist market economy bequeathed by Mr Deng. China's economy may have been transformed, but its politics are as strange as ever. What other major country in the world these days would have a question mark hanging over it because of the death of a 92-year-old man who had not been seen in public since 1994, and who had been too frail for months possibly years, to wield any direct influence?

It is symptomatic of today's China that while Chinese officials were maintaining until the end that Mr Deng's health had seen "no great change", with hindsight the first official indication that his condition was severe was a front-page report in the country's main stockmarket newspaper saying that a meeting of top leaders had been held on Tuesday in Peking "to study Deng's economic theories". The message was: we are not telling anyone about Mr Deng's condition, but share-trading is OK. The first public announce-

ment following confirmation of Mr Deng's death illustrated the enduring Communist approach to collective decision-making. A total of 459 officials were appointed to the funeral committee, with Mr Jiang as chairman. The committee's first decree was that no foreign dignitaries and no foreign media will attend the funeral

In such a secret and opaque political system, an individual's political clout has more to do with personal prestige than any joh title. In early 1992, for man without any formal posi-

subsequent policy direction. It is personal prestige which Mr Jiang so sorely lacks, despite his tendency to hreak into song when meeting other heads of state. Yet it is his government which must now grapple with China's main problems, such as rising unemoloyment, venal corruption, a state sector where nearly half the enterprises are losing money, and an increasing inability to impose central con-

tion was what defined China's

trol on China's provinces. To date, there has been much more talk than action on all these fronts because of the policy-making paralysis during Mr Deng's protracted decline. Now that the post-Deng era has arrived, will this hiatus he resolved so that China can move definitively into the second stage of economic reform, a transition which will prove much more painful than the paradigm shift engineered by Mr Deng? Perhaps the most worrying prospect for this year is not so much an overt power struggle, but that political jockeying for position behind the scenes the prospect of Western-style democracy, ignoring any possible link.

In terms of personal freemeans that serious policymaking is again put on hold. Urgent decisions, for example on hankrupt state enterprises, will be left on the back-burner because the political risk of tackling them is too high.

A t the moment, Mr Jiang has macro-economics on his side: this year China's economic growth is forecast at 10.5 per cent, while inflation remains around 6 per cent, statistics which help cushion the blow of massive state enterprise redundancies. The Party rule may come when political repression is accom-panied by China's next cyclical economic downturn. With all China's dissidents

and pro-democracy activists

firmly behind bars, the chances

in the short term of protest from below achieving real political change seem remote. The brutal truth is that persecuted mainland dissidents count for much more abroad than they do with the bulk of the population, who tend to view them as fighting a hopeless cause. Given the controlled official media and education system, Chinese who are angry about corruption and wilful officials rarely make the connection with the need for public accountability. China's progression to a more open political system probably depends on the new cohort of younger hureaucrats, many with Western training, who are making their way up the ministries. But even they talk more about improving the rule of law than

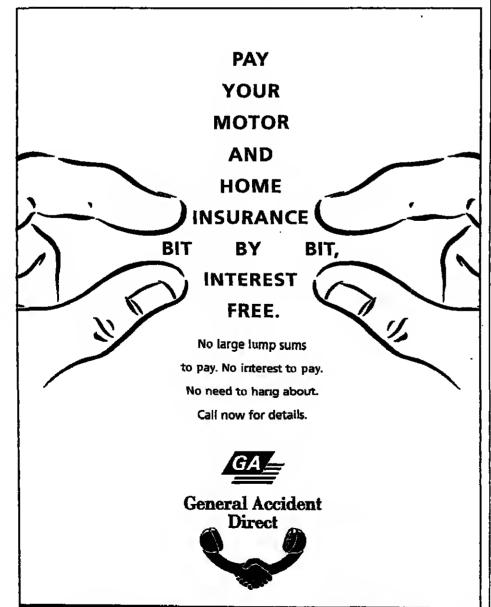
In terms of personal free-dom, the Deng reform programme did a great deal to reduce the party's control over people's lives. But next weekend's National People's Congress, when hundreds of handpicked trusties descend on the capital to vote through the party's legislative agenda, is a sharp reminder of just how Peking still views the idea of representative government.

Despite this control - or

should that he because of it? the Communist Party is left with the problem of securing a smooth political transition within the closed political system. Mr Jiang's own surprise promotion in 1989 illustrates the point. Plucked from relative political mediocrity, he was catapulted to high leadership precisely hecause he lacked a

defining political vision.

In Chinese official jargon. Mao was the "first generation" leader. Deng led the "second generation", and Mr Jiang is at the core of the "third generation". So who then are the "fourth generation" leadership candidates, given that Mr Jiang is already 70 years old? There are none, and such inquiries are off-limits while so much emphasis is being placed on bolstering the present leader-ship. But this is China's real succession question, and one which will determine how the world's largest country devel-ops in the 21st century. On past performance, it could be well into the next century before that tricky personnel problem is resolved. The odds are that it will not be decided by nniversal suffrage.



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sav to me - he had some difficulty with French part in the Long March, the famous Chinese Communist

consonants to hegin with ~ "Chean-Bierre, as you know, I shall devote my life to a world revolution. The people will take over. The masses will take power. But there are some things in the old order I shall regret having to abolish. and one of them is cricket." Where he had seen cricket

heing played I have no idea, but he always stuck to the old adage of "Know thine enemy", and he considered cricket to be the most quintessentially aristocratic and élitist of all sports.

"You know," he once said to me, "cricket is a paradoxical game. Everyone looks equal. Everyone seems to get a fair whack. Everyone is

dressed the same. Yet behind the empty rituals you will find power concentrated ruthlessly in the hands of one man, the captain. Cricket is autocracy dressed up as democracy. From this point of view it is indistinguishable from Marxism-Leninism." Incidentally, he pronounced his name not Deng but Dom,

as in Dom Perignon. From Dr Albert Anstruther GP retd Sir. I am probably one of the few English people who took

trek to achieve liberation, and Deng Xiaoping soon learnt that I was English and sought me out to talk about cricket. Many was the time we would seek out some flat piece of grass and bowl to each other with improvised bat and hall.

"Mao does not approve of my taste in sports," said Deng. "He thinks cricket is decadent and hourgeois." "Hmm," I said. "Tricky. What do you say to that?

"I say to him that we have much to learn from cricket. I tell him that without the wicket-keeper the ball would fly to the boundary, that if four men stand in a circle one



The long innings of Deng the cricket-lover

Miles Kington

will surely catch the hall, that 11 men can cry "How is that?" but only one can decide on the truth. And he always nods and then writes all these things down in the little red book he is compiling."

Great days! Incidentally, he always pronounced his name not Deng hut Don, as in Don Bradman. From Mr Herbert Sangster Sir, During the Forties I found myself in China as an agricultural adviser to hiang Kai-Shek, but was captured by the Communists in the civil war. Things might have gone ill had Deng

Xiaoping not discovered that I was a keen cricketer, and reinstated me as a Communist agricultural adviser. It was always a great

source of sadness to him that there were not enough Chinamen interested in cricket to form a team in the whole of China. so he depended upon foreigners for his playing companions, and was ready to capture them in battle if necessary. Nobody was more surprised than me when a Chinese army officer came round the prisoners of war shouting, 'Anyone here play clicket?"

Deng always had a sense of humour, and forbade us to refer to the hall called a Chinaman as a Chinaman. He used to toss me the bail and say, "Try to get this man out with an Occidental!"

His name, as far as I could make out, was pronounced "Dung". I once asked him which was the proper way to say it, but all he replied was, "Ah ha! As I suspected - you cannot read the Chinamanl How we laughed. From Sir Norbert Winter Sir. One of my last acts as a diplomat before I retired was to accompany a trade

delegation to Beijing, and there I was surprised to be interrogated fiercely by Deng about the state of modern cricket. Why was five-day Test cricket being degraded by one-day internationals? Why were cricketers dressing up in pyjamas? And what was all

this about crash helmets" I told him that, as I understood the situation, it was all to satisfy the requirements of Australian television. "Then by the shade of CB Fly it shall not happen here!" he shouted. It may be a coincidence,

but I have noticed that Rupert Murdoch has found it much harder to penetrate China than anywhere else

The last time I spoke to Deng Xiaoping, I dared to bring up the subject of Tiananmen Square and challenged him to justify it. He sighed and said, "One thing I will not stand is crowd invasion of pitch," then changed the subject.

incidentally. I got the impression that he pronounced his name more like Dong. When I confessed to having trouble with the pronunciation, he whispered, "Just think of luminous nose."

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Tories playing patriot games over Europe

ord Howe was one of the first politicians to that the danger posed to his party in the 1997 election by its inteconcilable differences on Europe was an almost exact echo of that which Labour faced over defence in 1983. So when he says, as he did yes-terday, that his own support for the Tories would "dimin-ish" if Malcolm Rifkind's "hostility" to the single currency were to become official party policy, he knows very well into what dangerous waters he is treading. James Callaghan de-counced Labour's unilateral-

ist defence policy in terms which blew apart the fragile truce that bad been coostructed between the right and left of the party. Whatever other faults he may have had, Lord Callaghan didn't enter the debate for reasons of personal vanity; apart from that one deadly intervention, he has never been a "back-seat driver". He did it because, finally, he thought the defence issue was bigger than party. He rightly thought that ideo-logues of the left might keep the party out of office for a decade or more. And he didn't really mind who knew it.

Lord Howe bad the business classes as much as himself in mind. But his remarks demonstrate bow at least some of the Tory pro-Euro-peans are now capable of making the same kind of decision that Callaghan took in 1983. The world discovered the

The world discovered the ity of their party's MPs after the inappropriateness of Denis Healey's famous election who will be identifiably on the Eurogibe about Lord Howe during the regicide of 1990. And yesterday the dead sheep became Ken Clarke's Rottweiler.

keeping open the options for EMU, if by any chance it proves to be a success and the British

Never mind that Malcolm Rifkind, whether in single-minded pursuit of his leadership ambitions or of what The Sun dictates should be his party's electoral strategy, tries to rewrite it in a radio interview. (His words simply could not be squared with a formal Cabmet text which, beside saying that a 1 Janoary 1999 starting date was "very unlikely", also says that "if a single currency was delayed we would of course retain the option to join at a later date", whether that was in the first wave or not.) Or that the Chancellor has to visit the Foreign Secretary's official residence at midnight and stand over him while be agrees torestate a policy already agreed manimously by the Cabinet less than a month ago.

Clarke does not give up; he is in deadly earnest. And he woo yesterday's hattle hand-somely because John Major knows that losing his Chancellor would be worse even than disappointing the leader writers of The Daily. Telegraph and The Daily Mail and The Sun.

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This bears repeating because there is unmistakeable evidence, available to both the main parties, that the strident Euro-scepticism,



whether press- or politician-dri-ven, is making an impact on the doorsteps. Polling focus groups and canvassing is throwing up a clear finding that the salience of Europe as an issue has

Some estimates now put

Europe at around third place in voters' lists of issues causing

concern where it was at eighth or minth in the middle of last year. This doesn't mean that the

country has suddenly swung

over to rampant nationalism. Bot at the very least it does mean that voters who are

deeply suspicious of the EU are more enthusiastically citing it as an issue which could decide

an issue which could decide their vote. This is partly why Labour has been shoring up its defences against the wilder charges that it is ready to sell out British interests.

Now this doesn't happen by accident: if you have five

national daily newspapers -including all the mass-circula-

tion newspapers except The Mirror - committed to a com-

mon Europhobic ideology; if the mass-circulation Sun runs

as it has been doing this week

as it has been doing this week a series of reports from European cities which draw an unremittingly bleak picture of late-20th-century economic and social decay and lays the blame for it almost exclusively on EU and domestic social legislation, then it makes an impact. Economic actions are the series of the s

then it makes an impact. Espe-cially if you have a political

party staring defeat in the face. In addition, all the aspiring Tory leadership candidates know that there will be a major-

started to rise.

Donald McIntyre

The anti-Europeans prepared to take any

risk in defence of Little Britain. But the pro-Europeans

mean business too

sceptic right of the party - ranging from those who simply oppose the single currency outright Ken Clarke's Rottweiler.

We are not yet at the Callaghan stage for the very good reason that thanks to Kenneth clarke, and quite a lot less visibly Michael Heseltine, the Cabinet still—just—has a policy which takes into account the country's rather than merely what its managers conceive to be the party's interest. By any logic other than of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of Norman Lamont staging a surprise leadership challenge on a ticket of straight with-drawal. (So serious that there is even fresh talk of Norman Lamont staging a surprise leadership challenge on a ticket of straight with-drawal.) What's more, if Labour's poll lead starts to marrow—and it hasn't shown much sign of doing so thus far—then the Euro-sception of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this is what the control of the Mad Flatter's Tea Party, this to those who are now serious about withnationalistic campaign offers the best bope of victory, even if it's the economic recovery rather than Europe which is really making the

> But there's a big catch. And Lord Howe illustrated it in his quiet way yesterday. As it happens Clarke, Howe and others believe that the improving economy offers them a better platform on which to win the election. The Chancellor at his meeting with backbenchers on Wednesday night was trying to remind them precisely of the importance of an improving economy to the coming campaign. But in any case, Lord Howe and others are not now going to swallow the shift in policy attempted by Rifland on Wednesday.

> And that means that Major cannot bow to The Sun and his own Euro-sceptics without exposing divisions on a scale which would more than cancel out the electoral value of nationalism.

> Those on the pro-European wing aren't going to go quietly. During the Maastricht debates those on the right threatening John Major with defeat, even a defeat which might bring down the Government, used to say that they were ready to put the national interest above the party's, oow the pro-Europeans believe it's their turn.

No wonder politics is nothing to rave about

by Suzanne **Moore**

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have a dream. The date of the election is announced, posters are unveiled, speeches are made, split ends are gelled down, splits over Europe are smoothed over, the tired old process is graphed by a conold process is cranked up once again, the press gets excited — but come the day, no one else does. No one turns up to vote at all. The polling booths are empty. No one wins the elec-tion. No one loses it. Except those seeking public office. As you can tell, I'm with Swampy, or Mr Swampy, as Jeremy Paxor Mr Swampy, as Jeremy Pax-man insisted on calling him oo Newsnight. Swampy thinks we shouldn't vote because it only encourages the politicians, and who in their right minds would want to do that?

This is an infantile position. Yeah register to vote and naff up your voting papers en masse", a cri de coeur of a dis-affected generation for whom adolescence has been prolonged by the material affects of Tory policies, whose politics have been formed precisely in opposition to what is on offer.

Direct action comes out of a legitimate frustration with the inertia of traditional political processes. Young people, we are told, have never been much interested in politics. As they get older they become more enamoured. They grow up. Or, you could say, they give up. If maturity means a sudden inter-est in a declining institution that still operates as it did in the 19th century, then there is a strong case for euthanasia for

anyone over 25.
It is not just the young who have lost faith. A recent poll found that black people were four times less likely to vote than whites. Three in 10 blacks are not registered to vote. Seven out of 10 women believe that the political parties do not pay enough attention to issues that are important to women. The same survey also showed the core of female voters aged between 25 and 54.

None of this is particularly surprising. What is shocking is that all the main pobtical parties continue to ignore it. If women, if black people, if the 18-30 generation do not feel inspired or represented in the political process, who is it for, exactly? Parliamentarians may suggest that this is a question of education, and that if only people understood what goes on in our great democracy they would be more impressed. This is not the case. We are not stupid. As consumers we are used to more and more choice; as voters we are offered less

Indeed, when you watch the



Political party poopers: young people, understandably, are keener to rave than to voce

Photograph: REX

In the House of Commons the fray itself is not a pretty sight. It is not just the overwhelming maleness of the place that does you in, it is its fundamental staleness ... in fact not a lot happens



mons to see their representatives perform, you can see the disappointment. For the first five minutes it is enough for them to see in the flesh those they are used to seeing on TV. "Ooh, isn't he tall?" they say of Tony Blair. Soon, however, when the chamber empties out and a mere eight members of

the Labour party are listlessly debating the NHS with three bored Tories, you can see them The lack of trust in all professional politicians articulated by Swampy and his gang of swamp fighters is symptomatic

of our lack of trust in all kinds of big institutions. The quickest way these days to garner political credibility is to appear to come from outside the dirty world of politics - like the moral campaigners, the animal rights activists, the single issue groups. Coming from below, they soon position themselves above the frav. The fray itself is not a pretty

sight. It is not just the overwhelming maleness of the Commons that does you in, it is its fundamental staleness. You can smell it. The trouble is, once you have been there a few faces of people who bave times the mustiness gets into queued for more than an bour your clothes and you don't even to get into the House of Com- notice it any more. Just as you rarely matches the real issues of

walk around with swords, that there are thousands of rules that pertain to nothing hot "traditions" that no one is able properly to explain to you, and that in fact not a lot happens. "Oh well, it's great theatre,

its apologists will claim. But most of the time it's not even that. If this is theatre, it's fringe theatre of the worst kind, which has survived only because of person you meet there acknowledges the poor state of the place. No ooe thinks this is the right way to run a railroad, but it doesn't stop them getting on the train day after day. Perhaps it will change if there

are more women, they say. Perhaps better pay would attract a better class of MP. Perhaps it would be better if the constitutional edges were tweaked slightly. Perhaps it's the fault of the building itself, whose history weighs too heavily. And perhaps it's the responsibility of the electorate, who just aren't

interested enough. Yet this system could not operate without a notion of public passivity. This institution survives because the great majority of us ignore it. Politicians follow an agenda that

subjects that many of us express an interest in. On issues as varied as child care, the legalisation of certain drugs, belp for the bomeless and all sorts of environmental concerns, it is widely acknowledged that polit-

When one of the poor creatures dies, and one constituency or another is left unrepresented in the months before a by-elec-Some analysts claim that globalisation makes politics as it is currently practised less important, but the other way to look at it is that it underlines the truism that all politics is, in fact, local politics.

icians have not got a lot to offer.

If people feel that huge economic but faceless forces are controlling their lives, the result for some is moral drift. For others it is also the moral indignation that governs many of the protests we have seen lately. Swampy's take on all this is that if we ignore the politicians they really think.

may go away, because they will feel less powerful. This is naive: we already ignore them, and they bave not gone away. Voting, whichever way you

do it, is an affirmation of faith in this congenitally deformed version of democracy. The numbers of people who won't vote this time around are read as a sign of electoral apathy rather than political failure.

Many of the disillusioned agreeing with Richard Neville's statement: "The difference between voting Tory and voting Labour may only be half an inch but it's the half an inch in which we live", and hope that their X marks the right spot. Others, who don't register, or mess up their ballot papers, will be yet again written off. But not voting is a mute protest against the system itself. If voting is a rare chance to have your say, then oot voting is one of the only ways of saying what you

The end of a beautiful friendship

John Hume's bitter attack on Sinn Fein may force the IRA to think again, says David McKittrick

John Hume's assault on Sinn Fein in yesterday's Irish News was plainly occasioned by the general election, in which his party will be pitched into fierce battle with Sinn Fein, but it also poses profound questions about the peace process.

The SDLP leader's criticisms, and indeed condemnation, of the republican movement was expressed in

lican movement was expressed in forceful terms, declaring that any election deal with Sinn Fein without an IRA ceasefire amounted to "asking our voters to support the killing of innocent human beings". This language came as something of a surprise to many, given that for most of the 1990s Hume has preferred to engage with Sinn Fein through private dialogue rather than public denunciation.
But it remains a deeper surprise that the John Hume – Gerry Adams relationable and blackered in the first tionship ever blossomed in the first place, given the fact that the two men are direct rivals for the leadership of Northern Irish nationalism. That relationship has troubled and disconcerted many, particularly in the SDLP.
It resulted in an unprecedented

political paradox. On the one hand, the two leaders developed a personal bond deep enough to create the peace process and at many points rescue it from collapse. On the other, their two parties remained not only separate but

actively hostile to each other. This antagonism is underpinned and explained by centuries of tradition. There are two almost completely distinct traditions within Irish nationalism: the first, the physical force republicanism of Tone, Emmet, the Fenians, the Irish Republican Broth-

Tohn Hume's assault on Sinn Fein erhood and latterly the IRA; the second, the constitutional nationalism of Grattan, O'Connell, Parnell, Redmond and now Hume. The picture is not quite

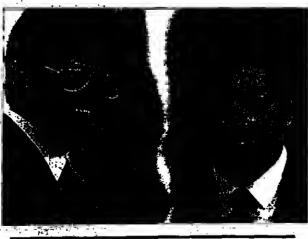
so straightforward in the south, where parties founded by the revolutionaries of 1916 and the early 1920s have evolved from the "slightly consti-tutional" into strong opponents of violence. But in the oorth, Sinn Fem has always been a

bitter opponent of the SDLP and its precutsor, the old Nationalist party. Both the SDLP and Sinn Fein are nationalist parties but, as throughout history, their relationship is one of institutionalised

hatred. The constitutionalists believe the IRA besmirches a noble cause with violence, while the republicans accuse the SDLP of preventing the formation of a united anti-British front.

A voting pact between the two sides could produce seven or even eight nationalist wins in the 18 Northern Ireland constituencies. But the philosophical divisions between them have run so deep for so long that such a deal is unthinkable without a well-

established IRA ceasefire. The Hume-Adams relationship, therefore, pretty moch flies in the face



The relationship flies in the face of Irish history

much confusion at election times. But all along the existence of Hume-Adams has not prevented interparty clashes at lower levels. An SDLP councillor, in a complaint echoed by John Hume yesterday, has accused Sinn Fein of still being involved in the ancient art of vote steating. The allegation is that some among the impressive retinue of bodyguards who surround Gerry Adams are so convinced of the merits of democracy that they

had hoped to vote more than once. Even a few votes can be vital, since this election is more than usually of Irish history. It is also a source of important in the eternal SDLP-Sinn

election was a record 15.5 SDLP's dipped to 21 per

In the coming elec-tion most believe Adams, aided by houndary changes, will win West Belfast back from Hume's colleague Joe Hendron. There is also a chance of Martin McGuinness winning in Mid-Ulster. Sinn Fein MPs do not take their seats at Westminster, but even so the election would be seen as a triumph for republicans.

That record Smn Fein vote came about because many who do not normally vote for the party lent their votes to the

republicans on the theory that a vote for Adams was the best way of encouraging a new IRA ceasefire. The tactic did not work.

It is unclear whether a further republican electoral triumph would make another IRA ceasefire more or less likely. Most oationalists believe Adams and McGuinness want a ceasefire, but there is a widespread suspi-cion, and indeed fear, that their stock has fallen sharply within the republi-

can movement. "One thing that is getting more and nore pronounced is a worry that to shaking their deadly complacency."

Fein battle, Sinn Fein's these guys really are hostage to a few vote in last May's forum troglodytes." Adams himself seemed to signal that the militarists were in per cent, while the control when he admitted last month, SDLP's dipped to 21 per "The genie in many ways is back out of the bottle." Looking beyond its election aspect,

Hume's new outspokenness reflects some of that suspicion, in that it amounts to a public questioning of the ability of Adams and McGuinness to shepherd away from terrorism what one observer described as the slowest ships in the republican The IRA has seemed to take for

granted that it can kill people with political impunity on this side of the general election. Its expectation appears to be that the next British government would, firstly, be impressed by such killings and, secondly, have no option but to engage with republicans again, no matter how much blood had been spilt.

IRA leaders may also have taken for granted that Hume, whatever the provocation, would oblige them by ouce again acting as facilitator in new negotiations. He has now planted the

thought that they cannot automatically rely on his good offices.

The IRA has almost certainly not comprehended the extent to which its continuing violence may poison the well with an incoming Labour administration, inhibiting what will in any event be a nervous and preoccupied government. It has not, in other words, realised that phases of politics cannot A Dublin source summed it up: be alternated with phases of violence.



PAUL MITCHELL

Order a copy from your nearest newsagent.

* THE INDEPENDENT IT IS. ARE YOU?

CBI cuts back

business & cit BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Rank to create 3,000 jobs as it buys back £350m in shares

Tom Stevenson City Editor

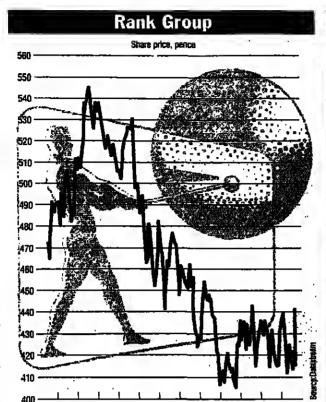
Rank is to create 3,000 jobs this year as it expands its Butlin's to Hard Rock leisure and entertainment businesses. Plans include 10 new Mecca bingo clubs, 20 large Tom Cohleigh pubs, 5 multiplex cinemas and a holiday village in Cumbria.

News of the joh creatinn plans accompanied full-year figures showing a slump in profits as new chief executive Andrew Teare's deck-clearing write-offs took effect. Rank's shares jumped 19.5p to 434.5p, however, as the market focused on the promise of a share huyhack and the prospect of Rank finally securing a sale of its re-maining 20 per cent stake in Rank Xerox.

Mr Teare said yesterday Rank would he seeking approval from its sharebolders to huy back up to 10 per cent of its shares at a cost of around £350m at the current share price. A sale of the Rank Xerox stake would easily cover a repurchase, with analysts believing Xerox, the most likely buyer, might pay £1hn to take complete control of the office equipment husiness.

Rank's new jobs are to be created around the country with 880 slated for a new Oasis Forest Holiday Village in Cumbria. A further 750 jobs are pencilled in for 10 Mecca bingo clubs, to add to the division's existing 133. Southampton is to get a new £25m multi-leisure centre

which will create jobs for 300. Mr Teare, who has been in the joh for just under a year



Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Atg Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

China Clays, is under mounting pressure to return Rank to a growth tack. Since his appointment, the leisure group's shares have fallen from a high of 545p

to as low as 403.5p.

He said yesterday: "During 1996, we undertook a reappraisal of all aspects of our business and a period of change and restructuring has followed.

focused, entrepreneurial and forward looking.

Mr Teare also confirmed that Rank is seeking huyers for its film distribution business, which has a catalogue of films including the Carry On series and newer classics such as Strictly Ballroom. He poured cold water, however, on expectations that the division, which also The steps we have taken are owns the famous symbol of a making the company more owns triking a gong, might raise

Under pressure: Investors are walting for chief executive

Andrew Teare to return Rank to a growth tack

between £100m and £150m, included the American Hard with analysts now suggesting a price tag nf about £70m.

During the year the rationalisation of Rank's previously disparate interests included the sale of Precision Industries, an engineering husiness. for £66m, holiday group Shearings for £75m and Kingston Plantation for £30m. Acquisitions, totalling £460m. comRock Cases and Tom Cobleigh, the puh chain.

Pontiac.

Excluding exceptional items. operating profits rose 13 per cent to £290m during 1996, in line with expectations, struck from a 9 per cent rise in turnover to £2.08bn. Underlying earnings per share slipped from 24.3p to 24.1p, allowing an 8 per cent rise in the dividend

growth forecast as exports fall Reported profits were hit by a number of one-off items, in-Diame Coyle Economics Editor cluding a £232m exceptional The strong pound has led the charge to cover permanent

Confederation of British Indiminution in property values and £35m of restructuring dustry to slash its forecast for charges. That compared with a £236m one-off profit in 1995 on survey of trends in industry by the employers' organisation rethe sale of part of the Rank ported a fall in export orders, although manufacturers' total Xerox stake and resulted in a fall in pre-tax profits from £515m to £65m. order books were unchanged.

But the growing gap between manufacturing and the rest of Three of Rank's four core divisions reported double digit profit growth, with film and the economy was highlighted by a rise in consumer confidence entertainment services the star to its highest level since August 1988. This followed news earperformer. The film arm was boosted by a high number of Hollywood releases. At home. lier in the week of a rebound in Pinewood studios reported high street sales last month. Expert opinion was just as direcord profits.

Hard Rock, which was revided. David Bloom, an econunited with its American sister omist at broker James Capel. company during the year, grew said: "The hroad trend in the through acquisitions but saw sales at existing restaurants fall 4 per cent. This was mainly economy is up. Not raising interest rates now is storing up trouble for the future." thanks to poor performances in Paris, which was hit by terror-But Dharshini David at ism and a wave of BSE-inspired

HSBC Markets predicted a fragile manufacturing recovery, anglopbobia, and in Orlando and Nashville. The Hard Rock with the CBI survey pointing to a possible dip in output this month. The CBI trimmed its brand is being boosted by the launch of a record label and a forecast for growth in 1997 to new American cahle television 2.8 per cent from 3.1 per cent. series, Hard Rock Live, which making it one of the most pessimistic predictions for the economy this year. Weaker outstarts next month with \$30m sponsorship from the car maker put, investment and exports account for the reduction. In leisure, Odeon cinemas en-

Sudhir Junankar, the CBI's associate director of economic analysis, said: "The main uncertainty around our forecast remains the level of sterling, which has risen sharply since last summer and is set to hold back the growth in manufacturing and exports this year."

manufacturers found a drop in export orders, with the balance of firms reporting higher orders down to minus 12 per cent from minus S per cent. The total order book was unchanged between last munth and this.

Manufacturers' output expectations increased for the second month running following a fall in December. "However, firms remain fairly upbeat about stepping up production in the coming months, as home de-mand for manufactured goods continues to hold up." Mr

The clearest sign of the impact of the strong pound came in lower expected price rises. A though prices normally slow after the traditional January increases, the balance expecting to raise rather than reduce prices dropped sharply from 16 per cent to 4 per cent.

The CBI still expects interest rates to rise by half a percentage point after the election, and the reason could be seen in yesterday's consumer confidence

The survey, carried out for the European Commission by GFK. showed confidence on a rising trend and back at its highest level since August 1988, Optimism about prospects for the economy dipped slightly but this was more than offset by a surge in optimism about oursonal finances. This was especially pronounced among young

"With building society windfalls in the pipeline, confidence can only improve further," said

Welsh Water's pricing under investigation

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

The water watchdog. Ofwat, is in the full knowledge that they investigating allegations that Welsh Water is engaged in predatory pricing tactics in an attempt to stifle one of the first genuine moves to introduce competition into the privatised

The dispute involves moves by one of the UK's largest paper producers, Shotton Paper from South Wales, to switch from Welsh Water to a new supplier. Shotton, which is owned by a Finnish paper group, pays about £2m to Welsh Water for its water supply with sewerage costs on top. The company, which claims to be Britain's higgest manufacturer of newsprint, has argued these

charges are excessive. A London-based consultancy company, called Enviro-Logic, has said it can slash Shotton's bills by exploiting a little-known provision in the Water Act. The move, known as an inset appointment, involves a paper transaction in which Enviro-Logic huys existing supplies and services from Welsh Water at wholesale prices determined with agreement from Ofwat. The process is the nuly current option open to large industrial groups which want to change

their water provider. However, Welsh Water is thought to have responded by offering to cut its own charges to Shotton. Dr Jeremy Bryan, Enviro-Logic's managing di-rector, said he believed Welsh Water had gone even further, by pledging to undercut any price put forward by the consultancy group. He said the move no more than five years.

amounted to abuse of its mono-

poly powers.
"Welsh Water are doing this are pricing a competitor out of the market. That seems to me to be a clear breach of their operating license," Dr Byan said. Ofwat confirmed it was in-

vestigating the claims. Welsh Water declined to comment on details of its pricing policy. However, a spokesman said: "The ball is now back in the court of Shotton Paper. We have put a fair price to Ofwat." Chris Robinson, Shotton's

finance director, said Ofwat bad recently submitted provisional findings on the pricing proposals. "Clearly we are seeking to get the best possible price for our water. But we're still not satisfied. The process has been dragging on for far too long."
The row is another sign of

growing frustration in the industry with Ofwat's progress on the issue of water competition. So far Enviro-Logic has sub-mitted 15 hids to the regulator to take over services for companies which use large quantities of water, including plants run by hrewers Guinness and Bass.

Yet almost six years after privatisation. Ofwat has sancuoned only one inset appointment, which involved Anglian Water taking over supplies in a Buxted chicken plant.

lan Byatt, the regulator, has

Railtrack promises to invest over £4m a day

The new railway age Railtrack plans to spend £4m on the rail network every

day over the next 10 years. Important projects include: • A £15bn modernisation of the West Coast Main Line

route now run by Richard Branson's Virgin Group • The £580m Thameslink 2000 project to expand and improve the north-south cross-London rail service

 A £220m resignalling programme on the Great Eastern route out of London's Liverpool station

signalling and electrification work for the high-speed link from London's Paddington station to open next year

 £140m of improvements to enable Channel Tunnel Eurostar services to run to regional destinations beyond London through to Scotland

 Station renovations worth £100m at Paddington, Waterloo, Edinburgh Waverley and Glasgow Central

 Modernisation of the West Anglia line including signal renewal and improved track layouts costing £65m

 £40m on better radio communications between train drivers and signal boxes in South-east England A £40m maintenance programme for the Forth Bridge in Scotland with increased repair and painting work

Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Railtrack, the company that owns Britain's track, signalling and stations, will spend more than £4m a day on the rail network over the next 10 years to resuscitate the nation's vast rail network. The £16bn investment plan involves spending more than £1bn on stations, including building 13 new ones. £2.5bn on track work and more than £2bn on signalling.

The company will have to borrow £2.5bn lo finance the spending plans. Sir Robert Horion, the chairman of Railtrack, said that Railtrack would be spending more than 20 per cent than British Rail did in its last year

of operation spanning 1993/94. More than 1,500 miles of track will be renewed over the next 10 years as well as 3,500 miles of sleepers. The West Coast mainline - which Richard Branson's Virgin group took been successfully completed.

over this week - will get a £1.5bn upgrade:

joyed a record year thanks to

films such as Independence Day

and Toy Story, Bingo shrugged

off the woes afflicting most of

the industry since the intro-

duction of the National Lottery,

with admissions 10 per cent

bigher in the second half.

Casinos enjoyed higher admis-

Mike Howell, Railtrack's commercial director, confirmed that the company was also in talks with Mr Branson over a further £150m investment in order to cut the five-bour journey from London to Glasgow by nearly 90 minutes. There are already plans to cut the journey time by 70 minutes. Four stations will be

overhauled. London's Paddington and Waterloo stations as well as Edinhurgh Waverley and Glasgow Central will have more than £25m spent on them. Nearly 50 stations will get cash injections of £1m.

Leaves on the line will still affect railway services. Rail-track is experimenting with "Swedish scrubbers" - power-ful water jets which blast debris from tracks - but will not buy a fleet of vehicles, which would cost £40m, until trials have

The company is also planning large capacity freight route from the Channel tunnel to Scotland. If realised, it could see 30 trains a day using the new service - freeing more than 275,000 long-distance lorry journeys

The investment plans comes after John Swift, the rail regulator, recently criticised Railtrack's underspend on infrastructure investment as "wholly unacceptable". Railtrack said vesterday that it did not think there would be "a problem" with the regulator and that all the outstanding maintenance work would be cleared by 2001.

from Britain's molorways.

A spokeswoman for the rail regulator said the new spending plans would be studied. "The key question is what action the company is taking and to ensure the spending results in a better railway," she said. Labour called on the reg-ulator to go through the spending plans with a "fine-tooth

comb", adding that the "company's track record did not inspire confidence".

A Labour government would he committed to tighter regulation and one option under consideration would see the Treasury controlling Railtrack's income. 1 think it it would be unnecessary to change the current arrangements," said Sir Robert

Save Our Railways, am antiprivatisation lobbying group. said the plans were very disappointing". Campaigners listed 50 examples of "neglect" and a spokesman said that passengers had suffered "disgusting. dangerous stations as well as slow and unreliable journeys".

Railtrack's main source of income - track access charges levied on the train companies - generates more than £2bn a year, With Railtrack commined to paying an average £1.6hn a year for its investment plans, the spending plans will not dent the company's balance sheet.

Workers angry at steel 'dangers'

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

The Canadian-owned CoSteel company hased in Sheerness, Kent is under investigation for

health and safety regime. Officials from the Health and Safety Executive are inquiring into uninn claims that management puts pressure on employees to return to work quickly after industrial accidents.

previously said he supported the principle of inset appointments but was unhappy with the legislation, which appeared to give new suppliers an openended supply commitment. He is thought to want to limit new supply contracts in a perind of

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Source: FT Information

they lose all their bonus.

allegedly operating a poten-tially dangerous and unlawful

Documents passed to the HSE also show that management penalises employees for taking time off because of injuries by withdrawing bonuses. Under the system - the existence of which is admitted by management - if a worker takes

a day off in a month because of an accident, other members of his team will lose half their extra the company was co-operating management always adopted an "open door" policy for complaints. He said the system payment. Two accidents and

The papers also disclose that points are taken off in salary asessments if employees take time off through accidents. CoSteel routinely requests

staff to take days lost through sickness owing to injury as annual leave, the documents disclose. In 30 letters from staff and former employees, reported in People Management magazine. it is alleged that management puts pressure on those recovering from accidents to return to light duties at the plant. Hugh Billot, CoSteel per-

sonnel director, yesterday wel-

comed the inquiry. He insisted

the company was co-operating fully with HSE representatives. Mr Billot believes the company's system encourages good practice and insisted management would not allow people back to work

if they were unfit.
The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, which among other unions at the plant has been derecognised by the company, claims the regime could lead to employees working when they are unfit and it could deter people from reporting accidents. If that were proven, then CoSteel would be breaking the law, the union argues.

Mr Billot said the concerns had not been raised by employees with the company and that

whereby employees suffering from injuries may be asked to take annual leave had heen operating for at least a decade and was in place when unions were recognised.

The salary assessment system was part of an agreement signed by unions in 1988 and injury records, along with such factors as attitude and performance, were taken into account. Staff were "tremendously keen" on the bonus system, said Mr Billot. "They love it".

Mr Billot said the union had

cnntacted employees and former staff to elicit the 30 letters which had been passed to the HSE.

ScotAm gives up float plans and asks for bids

Jill Treanor Banking Correspondent

Scottish Amicable yesterday hoisted the white flag over its flotation plans and gave potential bidders a week to table their hids, mwhat is the first public auction for a mutual life insurer.

Up to six companies may be in the running but SBC Warburg, the investment bank advising ScotAm, refused to give details about the precise number and the identity of the bidders. Two of the hidders have

already declared their hand. are Ahhey National. which hid £1 4bn, and Prudential, which came in with a higher offer of £1.9bn. Australian Mutual Provident (AMP) is another name widely tipped to be in the frame.

The bidding process looks cer-tain to push the price tag of the insurer above £2hn, which will lead to greater payouts to Scot-Am's 1.1 million policybulders. "We believe the process we

are publishing today will maximise the value for policyholders and will be seen to have done so," said Sandy Stewart, chairman of ScotAm.

ScotAm, which is not subject to Takeover Panel rules because it is not a quoted company, bas demanded that all hidders put forward firm proposals by next Friday.

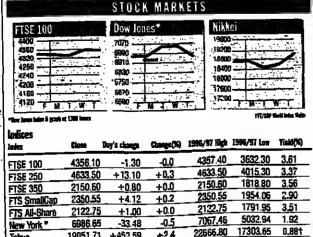
It will then publicise the terms of the hids, if required to do so by the hidders, hold further talks with the suitors and give them until mid-March to submit a final, binding offer. At the end of the process

which is timetabled for the end of next month, ScotAm will recommend only one of the offers to its policyholders, who eventually will be asked to vote on whether to sacrifice the insurer's mutual status. Policyholders should receive complete details of the recom-

mended hid in a circular in May. Each proposal received will be evaluated by the board, SBC Warburg and Tillinghast-Towers. Perrin, an actuarial firm. The board will also consult the Department of Trade and Indus-

try and an independent actuary. The board will assess the bid on 14 criteria, including the financial security of policyholders and the level of service they will

ScotAm attracted bidders after it recently announced plans to demutualise and Ocar on the stock market in three to five years. Policyholders would have shared £75m between them and the flotation would have released another £200m to £400m in payouts to policy. holders. The directors stood to receive share honuses worth as much as £14.4m.



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EATER AS

'It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that while some franchisees may be able to double their passenger levels, not all of them will - not in any case unless

government policy is used to force people off the roads'

Not all train routes are heading for big profits

for its revenues are effectively underwritten by the Government. So, too, it might be thought, are the revenues of the train operators, who are being paid big subsidies to take on these franchises. But are these things really the licence to print money that the City seems to assume? Here's why quite a few of them may not be. Let's take Virgin, which was this week

awarded the West Coast InterCity franchise, as a starting point. In year one Virgin will get paid £76.8m by the Government to run this service. By the end of the 15 year franchise period, however, it will be paying the Treasury £220m a year and still, under its business plan, he making a whopping great profit on top. To make the figures stack up, Virgin is assuming it will be able roughly to double passenger traffic on the route. Given

Virgin's marketing acumen and its undoubted entrepreneurial skills, it stands a very good chance of hitting this target. Indeed the target is oot as ambitious as it might seem. Passenger traffic hit these kind of levels after the last upgrade of the West Coast line in the early 1970s. Once Virgin has reduced journey times with the introduction of its new tilting trains, it is more than possible passengers will return from air and road in sufficient numbers to vindicate

for revenue growth.

صكذا من الاعل

It doesn't take a rocker scieotist to figure out that while some franchisees may be able to double their passenger levels, not all of them will - not in any case unless govern ment policy is used to force people off the roads. Cost cutting provides an alternative way of making the oumbers stack up but as Stagecoach has already discovered with South West Trains, such measures often prove a zero sum game. With some of these franchises, notably Scotrail and the high-sub-sidy commuter routes, it is going to be next

to impossible to grow the market by anything significant. The result is that a number of franchisees are going to fall.

As a general rule of thumb, the most vuloerable are going to be those with the highest rates of declining subsidy relative to turnover. National Express and Prism took

particularly exposed. And if franchisees start failing that means the railways will be a continuing burden on the public finances for long after they were meant to be.

The housing market can still boom

The housing market has oot yet returned to the excesses of the last decade. There these targets. So Virgin, driveo on by the spirit of Swampy, may well get there. The are few gaznumpers outside London and the

claim that the days of boom and bust are over forget their basic economics. When the economy recovers, so do house prices. But the ups and downs in housing are more pro-

nounced than the general economic cycle. One reason is that supply is relatively fixed. An upswing in prices always increases the number of sellers, but most of these want to buy homes too. The net supply of new housing can grow only slowly and is limited by the availability of places to build. As Mark Twain remarked, they stopped making land.

Psychological factors exaggerate the swings. When demand rises, the urge to get in before all the best houses go or prices rise out of reach compounds the upswing. Confidence in the market vanished within weeks in 1989, but is now returning with a vengeance.

So as long as there is a business cycle, there will be a bigger housing cycle. We have plenty of these episodes to look back on durng the last 40 years.

The best counter-argument is the possi-hle reduction in demand for property as a hedge against inflation. If people really believe inflation in Britain will stay low, there is less need to invest in bricks and mortar for an asset that will gain real value over many years. That would make for a one-time reduction in demand for housing that would help keep house price inflation subdued for perhaps another five or ten years.

For the time being, however, there seems

So Railtrack is going to invest £16bn over the next 10 years on Britain's rail infra-structure. Big deal. It can afford it and more, structure. Big deal. It can afford it and more, business plans on equally heroic assumptions claim that the days of boom and bust are over of Greater London. Prices are well below of Greater London. Prices are well below their long-term treod, earnings after inflation and tax are growing strongly, and building society windfalls will provide the funds to cover moving expenses and deposits. Against that, mortgage rates might rise by half a percentage point or so later this year. When the pre-election uncertainty is behind us, watch out for a housing market that looks a bit more boom-like.

Rank needs a big idea

Andrew Teare looked more relaxed yes-terday than at any time since he took on the Herculean challenge of sorting out Britain's largest, least focused and dullest leisure company. His hooeymoon period at Rank looked dangerously like eoding in divorce unless he could reverse the share price slide that started more or less oo the day he moved into the hot seat. Yesterday, for the first time, the market began to believe he was

During the reign of Mr Teare's predeces-sor, Michael Gifford, Rank adopted the Millwall FC approach to investor relations "no-one likes us and we doo't care" - so vesterday's attempt to convince the City it was setting itself demanding but achievable he, and Rank, needs more than anything

by last year's expensive Tom Cobleigh acquisition, that Rank's best talent was for squandering shareholders' funds.

The PR offensive has a long way to go yet, nowever. Analysts still find Rank's level of disclosure unacceptably low. It suggests problems where they may not exist. When the share price has fallen a quarter in a year while the rest of the market has risen 16 per cent, these doubts oeed to be addressed head-on, oot sidestepped.

Presentation aside, the substance of Rank's problems remains intractable. It owns a rag-bag of tired brands like Butlin's that will require heavy capital investment to hring up to date, some mature concepts like Hard Rock, which is struggling even to maintain like-for-like sales let alone grow them, and hard-pressed husinesses like Mecca bingo, which is outperforming its peers but still earning less than it did before the National Lottery spoiled the party two years ago. Getting shot of its £1bn Rank Xerox stake

will underpin a balance sheet that is starting to look stretched now a £300m disposal programme is largely complete, but what now? For a company operating in strong growth markets, an inability to find anything sizeable to invest in is some iodictment. Mr Teare has come through a sticky first year as well as he could have expected in a husiness he knew oext to nothing about. What return on capital targets was a positive first | now is a big idea.

Housing recovery should pick up speed

Diane Coyle **Economics Editor**

Mortgage lending by high street banks and building societies increased last month sont despite signs of a panse at higher than their lending last the tail end of last year.

Predicting the outlook for A small decline in the

the housing market this year is amount of new loans approved. made difficult by the contra- but not yet made by building diction betweeo wide anecdo- societies cast a slight shadow tal evidence of big price rises, gazumping and other late-Eighties types of experience and the statistics which show a stately page of

House prices might have made a comeback as a hot topic of conversation at dinner parties, but the mortgage leoders are keen to emphasise that there is no danger of re-· · · · visiting the excesses of the last boom, Adrian Coles, director-general of the Building Societies Association, said yesterday: "There is oo boom going on. The market is much patchier than it was in the

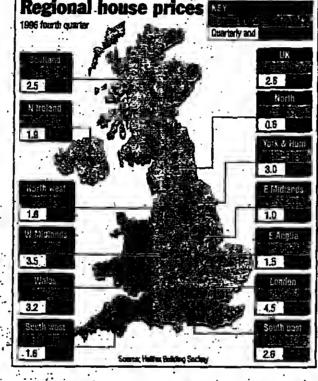
1980s-

Both remarks find support in recent evidence. Yesterday's figures showed a small monthly mcrease in new loans after falling slightly in No- by building societies to just vember and December. The over £1.2bn, a level 29 per cent by building societies to just latest figures suggest that the higher than a year earlier. pressures driving house prices Banks' mortgage lending up for the past year are still pre-climbed to £771m, 47 per cent

> over these robust figures, however. Some analysts suggested that uncertainty about interest rates in the run-up to the general election could be holding hack demand.

> So far the recovery in house prices has been heavily weighted towards London, the South-east and Northern Ireland. The annual rate of increase of nearly 15 per cent in Greater Loodon at the end of last year was twice the national average. Both Halifax and Nationwide reported a small drop in house prices in January, but the most buoyant regions

gressing at a more moderate first half of the 1990s left psy-



They reckon this means there is no danger of anything more than a steady recovery with pockets of excess

Others think this overlooks of the housing market.

David Miles, professor of economics at Imperial College, London, said: "House prices are about 20 per cent undervalued compared to their longrun trend."

With a fixed supply of land and rising costs of housebuilding combined with demographic pressure for more homes, over loog periods house prices have grown at about the same pace as the ecocomy as a whole.

Other indicators, such as hucked the trend. "Although the recovery is Many economists argue that the ratio of house prices to months, there must be a good one well established, it is progressing at a more moderate first half of the 1900s left asset of the second and the ratio of house prices to months, there must be a good average earnings, suggest that chance of a more than moderate prices remain low eveo after

chological scars, while low in- last year's 7.4 per cent average flation also makes property a increase.

sharply this year than last. "The fact that they have started to rise means people who want to buy will try to do the fundamental economics it quickly, whereas sellers will carry on holding off for a better price," he said

This ties in with a recent survey of estate agents from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which complained of the shortage of properties up for sale.

With consumer confidence at its highest since August 1988, unemployment falling, wage increases picking up and the prospect of more than £22bn in handouts of free shares by building societies during the next 12 to 18 months, there must be a good

Labour outlines single currency criteria for joining in 'first wave'

Yvette Cooper

Gordon Brown, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, yesterday set down five criteria on which a Labour government would decide whether to join a single cur-rency. Speaking in Washington to the US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, Mr Brown said: If the economic conditions are right, we will retain the option of joining ... in the first wave." Mr Brown said that Labour

would look at the impact of EMU on investment, on financial services and on pnemployment. He would also consider whether countries were at different stages in the economic cycle, and whether the stability pact was sufficiently flexible. But the five criteria do not yet

clearly determine whether Labour would join in the first wave or not. Graham Bishop of that prices could rise more balance these criteria will en- be "bound to have a significant condition could delay Britain's EMU on employment levels.

bance the chances of the Labour Party joining EMU." However, Michael Lewis of Deutsche Morgan Grenfall said: "These criteria form a more rigorous test; they would push you away

from joining in the first wave and

towards waiting to see how EMU panned out."

Mr Brown's first criterion is to "examine the likely impact on investment by British firms ... and on inward investment". Fears are already growing that an opted out Britain could lose inward investment as companies such as Toyota consider relocation within the euro-zone. Moreover, if the euro is a strong curreocy, interest rates in Britain are likely to be higher

than in the euro-zooe, discouraging investment by British companies, too. The risk of lower investment, growth and

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impact on a party that cares about unemployment".

But Mr Lewis argues that coocern for investment would oot necessarily lead to early membership: "That's more a long-term consideration."

Mr Brown also plans to coosider "the effect on our financial services". However, a recent report by David Currie for the Ecocomist Intelligence Unit argues that financial services should in fact do well inside or outside EMU so long as they prepare properly, keeping Mr Brown's options wide open.

The Shadow Chancellor said, thirdly, "we will examine whether European countries are at different stages of the economic cycle". Britain is currently in its fifth year of economic growth, while the German economy actually shrank in job creation outside: EMU the last few months of 1996. Ac-

entry for some time." However, the single currency could itself speed the integration of economies and reduce the need for separate mooetary policies across the union.

The fourth Labour criterion is to examine whether there is sufficient flexibility in the Duhlin stability pact to cope with economic shocks. As the David Currie report points out, unable to use monetary policy to react to local economic problems, governments will need the freedom to adjust borrowing to tide them through bad times. A strict interpretation of the stability pact - as the Germans prefer - would remove much of that flexibility. Michael Lewis said, "it looks as though Labour wants to wait and see how much discretion national governments will have".

Finally Mr Brown's said he

Stationery Office may make job cuts

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, the privatised company which prints most Government publications, is about to announce 400 compulsory redundancies, the Labour Party claimed yesterday.

HMSO, now renamed the Stationery Office, was sold last October for £54m, a third of its original asking price, to Electra Fleming, the venture capitalist group which stands to make a £104m profit out of this week's sale of Eversholt, one of the privatised rail leasing companies. Electra's management leam is thought to have made personal profits of £5.5m from the deal. Last November the National

Publishing Group, the new company formed by Electra to bid for HMSO, announced 940 job cuts out of a total workforce of 2,500. Managers said at the time they hoped most of the job losses would be through a voluntary redundancy programme. Hundreds of workers have al-

ready left the company, but

Labour said around 400 staff

would now have to be made

compulsorily redundant to meet the target. Unions are already thought to have been briefed by management on the cuts. The statutory notice period for the job cuts runs out at the weekend

and it is thought the plans could be revealed to staff today. Derek Foster, shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said: "This comes just

hours after Electra Fleming have walked away with massive profits from the rail sell-off. It's just hlind profiteering of the most sinister kind." Around 200 of the compul sory joh cuts are thought to be at the office's main site in Nor-

wich. Labour also said the future of the company's Man-chester factory, which prints most passports, was under threat following a rival bid for the work from De La Rue, the bank note printing giant.
A spokesman for the Sta-

tionery Office said in a statement last night. "At this point we cannot confirm the oumber of compulsory redundancies which may ultimately be required as we continue to accept volunteers." The statement insisted the total number of compulsory job cuts was likely to be lower, at around "15-20 per cent of the total 940". However, it also said about 100 compulsory job losses had already taken place at sites with a shorter

consultation period. The sale of HMSO, like the privatised railway rolling stock companies, is currently being investigated by the National Audit Office.

Pension victims still waiting for compensation

Personal Finance Editor

The process of compensating scandal is still only moving at a snail's pace with the release yes-terday of figures showing that 6,800 people have so far received redress, out of 478,000 priority cases identified.

The Personal Investment Au-thority, the financial regulator, yesterday said the number of people compensated was up from the 4,000 or so dealt with by September last year. A PIA spokesman said:

"Whilst the figures indicate that the pace of the review remains too slow, they do not take account of the measures annonnced in November last year to speed the process up." He said that while many

companies were proceeding with reviews of pension transfer cases faster than before, some were dragging their heels. Disciplinary action against the laggards was a strong possibility, the spokesman said. The PLA's latest statistics come more than two years af-

ter the senior City regulator, the

Securities and Investments

Board, issued a report showing that up to 1.5 million people

be dealt with by December 1995 collapsed in acrimony as the regulator was forced into a climb-down with its members over the letters they sent to potential victims. The PIA also had to wait months until a critical court case was resolved with independent financial advisers.

Last October, a PIA memo leaked to The Independent showed some companies with tens of thousands of cases on their books had barely dealt with more than a handful.

Since then, the PIA has tried to adopt a new get-tough ap-proach, calling in executives from the worst-offending companies and insisting they resolve 90 per cent of their cases by the end of this year.

Of the total cases identified as priorities, 361,000 came from life companies and 64,000 from the insurance arms of big banks and building societies. Financial advisers have contributed about 53,000 cases. Of this last group, compensation has been offered to only 305 people.

A Prudential spokesman said

yesterday: "We have made con-

siderable progress in the past few months and have cleared the majority of cases as oot requiring compensation.
"We are now working may have been mis-sold a personal pension. However, a PIA tified as needing review as deadline for all urgent cases to quickly as possible."

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Grantchester stacks up warehouses

Followers of Nigel Wray, the Midas-touched investor behind success stories such as Carlton Communications and Singer & Friedlander, will be interested in his latest little venture. Last year his Burford property group latched onto Grantchester Holdings, a specialist property developer which claims to have built a commanding position in edge-of-town retail developments since its foundation seven years ago. In November Burford demerged Grantchester, having injected a couple of retail parks in Huddersfield and Falkirk, leaving it with a 24 per cent stake in the enlarged group. Since then, the shares have risen almost in a straight line from the launch price of 100p to yesterday's 165p. up another 3.5p.
In the tradition of Mr Wray, who re-

mains a non-executive director, in-vestors have not had to wait long for Grantchester's next blockhuster deal. Yesterday, the group announced £121m of acquisitions and a £65m rights issue which will mean it has tripled the size of its portfolio to £220m in that three months since floration and douhled the number of units to 100. Shareholders are being offered the new shares at 137p on a seven-for-10 basis.

The centrepiece of the latest deal is the £73.3m acquisition from the development arm of J Sainsbury of seven warehouse development schemes, rang-ing from Chester to East London, via Swansea and Birmingham. The group is stumping up an extra £16.2m for the more mature former Burford property in Huddersfield, over which it has an option, hringing the total cost of that deal to £21.6m. Grantchester is also extending its reach into the North with a £9.25m deal for a warehouse scheme in house Tilney's net assets per share foremarkable turnaround, ending the day a first of 21.5p to 959.5p. son Construction for £23.1m.

Analysts said the deals, heing done on yields ranging from 6.8 per cent for Dramatic day the Sainshury properties to 8 per cent in Middlesbrough, were not exceptional for this type of asset. But Paul Whight, executive chairman, is extremely optimistic that he can squeeze much more BOC has made much of a drive to out of them.

similar out-of-town warehouses have been done at yields of 5 per cent or be-share price movement, the message is low. More importantly, the average rent being paid by Grantchester's blue-chip tenants is still under £10 a square foot. Given lettings done at double that rate in areas as diverse as Croydon, Leicester and Edinburgh, there is clearly the potential to raise that significantly. By means of five-yearly rent reviews and buying out "underperforming" leases, he reckons Grantchester can achieve rent increases of around 25 per cent a year across the portfolio.

Even given initial success on pre-lettings at Huddersfield and the 20 per cent growth notched up over the past three years, that is a tall order. With the shares

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

BOC: At a glance Market value: £4.64bn, strare price 959.5p 1996 1995 1996 1995 Trading record - First quarter -

100.8 - 102.7 Pre-tax profits (£m) Earnings per share (peace)

Turnover (%)

Share price (Pence)

out of them. explain its diverse industrial gases,
He points out that recent deals for healthcare and distribution husinesses finally getting through.

The headline figures looked bad as

BOC warned that the impact of the 25 per cent surge in the value of the pound had knocked £10m off operating profits in the three months to December. Pre- : computer memory chip market, which tax profits edged up by less than 2 per cent in the first quarter to £102.7m. Turnover, excluding BOC's share of related undertakings, was 1 per cent lower at £893.9m. If sterling stays at current levels, the total impact on full-year profits would be around £35m and the markets took immediate fright yesterday

with a rise of 21.5p to 959.5p.
The devil, as always with BOC, is in the detail and behind the grim-looking

sterling impact lies an encouraging trend in underlying profitability. About from the high pound relates to the translation of dollar and other currencies into sterling. The actual cash impact is likely to be smaller, in the region of £15m.

Another reason for the share price surge was interest from US investors since last autumn's listing in New York.

Meanwhile, the other two problem areas, the Edwards vacuum business and healthcare operations, are being tackled. Last year the shares plunged on the world-wide collapse in the the vacuum business depends upon for its earnings. Now it would appear to be close to borrom. BOC also looks to be getting over the 1993 loss of the patent on its anaesthetic drug, Forane. Five years ago Forane made annual profits of £123m, while the rest of the healthcare division lost £24m. Last year with the shares down 10p at one point. Forane's earnings were down to £20m.

And behind it all lies the sleeping gi-ant, the gases division, which accounts for the lion's share of profits. BOC predicts world demand growth for gases will be some 2 per cent higher than GDP growth. BOC's presence in the Far East is strong, while it has plenty of opportunity to grow in continental Europe.

Including sterling's impact, expect profits this year to be statle at £450m. with earnings per share of 58p and a prospective p/e ratio of 16. About right.

Verity's hi-fi is high-risk

Verity is the ultimate share for hi-fi anoraks. With names such as Wharfdale and Quad, the group's brands sound like a roll-call of the cream of British audio equipment. But they did not prevent the group coming to the brink of collapse in 1993 after three years of mounting losses and a torrent of cash calls.

Farad Azima, parachuted in as chief executive after his Mission amplifiers to CD players group was reversed into Verity in 1993, dragged the group back into the black, but what has really ig-nited the shares are the prospects for its revolutionary NXT flat speaker technology. Last autumn, the price more than tripled after the group set up a separate subsidiary, New Transducers, to develop the ground-hreaking product and hinted that industry giants such as Nokia and Panasonic could he in-

terested in the technology. Yesterday the shares added another 3.25p to a new peak of 43p, despite news of yet another cash call for £8.65m, after the group revealed that NEC, the Japanese consumer electronics group, bad become the first to sign a licence agreement for NXT Mr Azima is suggesting there could he plenty more where that came from Analysis expect the NEC deal alone

could bring in royalties in its first year of up to \$1.5m and further discussions are taking place with "major compa-nies" in Europe, the US, Japan and South Korea, The list of applications for a loudspeaker less than 1mm thick which produces hi-fi quality sound are virtually endless, ranging from laptop computers to transport and architectural uses. Sir Norman Foster's eponymous architectural practice is looking at the possibilities in concert halls. stations and the like.

The question will be whether Verity can handle all this. First-half results to December showed the group plunging back into the red with a loss of £1.43m replacing profits of £1.24m. New Transducers racked up development costs of £1.47m and the redirection of resources to NXT caused trading profits to halve. Full year profits are expected to be down £1m at £1.6m. High risk, but Drama is not a word normally asso while the other husinesses made £53 m. the new shares at 36p are worth a punt.

Speedy BSE test pushes up Proteus shares

Shares in the hiotechnology sector sparked into life yesterday on a string of announcements from some of its smaller constituents. Proteus Internarional's shares leapt 17p to 57.5p after it announced its Irish research partner had suc-cessfully developed a speedier test for BSE.

Shield Diagnostics' share price was also strong, rising 80p to 416.5p, after it revealed a research tie-up with Ahbott Laboratories, the US pharmaceuticals group. However, in-vestors reacted negatively to news that plans by Phytopharm to develop a plant-based cure for eczema would be delayed by around two years. The shares fell 23p to 185.5p. Proteus said Enfer Scientif-

ic, an Irish licensee, had pro-duced a high-throughput test for BSE based on a reagent pro-duced by the British firm which

had been validated by the Irish Department of Agriculture. David Gration, chairman, said the department's agricultural veterinary research laboratory was "happy to validate that this test does successfully discriminate between positive and negative BSE carcasses".

The post mortem test was ca-pable of processing 1,000 samples at a time and could be used in slaughterhouses, he said. Proteus went through a bad patch last year after raising £9.5m in a rights issue and see-ing then chief executive Jurek Sikorski resign soon after. But Mr Gration said Proteus had signed a deal with Enfer which would net Proteus 12.5 per cent of any revenues earned from the test, which analysts believe could give the company income running into seven

Shield, meanwhile, said it had signed an exploratory research agreement with the di- get to aim for.

agnostics division of Abbott Laboratories. This would give it access to Abbott's instruments, reagents and training in developing new hospital diag-nostic tests, the company said.

The problems of Phytopharm, whose technology is based on Chinese herbal remedies, concern its Zemaphyte drug for severe atopic eczema. a skin complaint. UK approval for the product, currently in phase III trials with 150 patients. will be delayed for around 18 months after US tests begin in September, according to Richard Dixey, chief executive.

This was due to concerns expressed by the British Medicines Control Agency.

But Mr Dixey played down the delays, saying they would help improve the chances for the drug, given that regulators on both sides of the Atlantic were now in closer liaison and the company had a clearer tar-

Primary Management consortium wins £200m Army contract



A consortium led by Primary Management, which is owned by the Gardner Merchant contract catering company, has won a £200m contract to manage non-military operations and work services at Aldershot Garrison. The deal will save the Army £32m.

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Home credit boosts Provident

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

Provident Financial yesterday proved for the fifth year running that the door-to-door lending business is a money spinner with high margins by making a profit before tax of £118.5m. a 17 per

cent increase on the year before. John van Kuffeler, chief executive, said the company was doing so well it was looking at the possibility of share buybacks and other ways of improving shareholder value. It was also

Provident, based in Bradford, specialises in home credit, which is collected weekly by agents. It has 1.3 million customers, mostly at the lower end of the income scale. The bulk of the group pre-tax prof-ii came from the home credit division, which made £114.4m, an

increase of 21 per cent. This was achieved with much higher interest rates than conventional lenders charge. The company puts this down to the high administration costs of collecting repayments on small regularly looking at potential loans door-to-door. However, its takeover propositions, he said. loans door-to-door. However, its

talled £909m, 35 per cent more. The annual percentage rate works out at well over 50 per cent. With 9 per cent more customers last year, the agent network was expanded by more than 700 to nearly 9,900. Loan growth last year was 14.6 per cent. Bad dehts increased less than 5 per cent to £34.3m. The company's branch net-

Provident provided £670m

of credit for customers last

year but their repayments to-

work has now been replaced by regional administration centres and low-cost local interview rooms for use by agents.

Profits from the insurance business, which specialises in women drivers, second cars and third-party insurance for older cars, fell £2.7m to £10.6m. An increase in premiums slashed the number of policyholders from 802,000 to 595,000.

Provident said it took longer to settle claims compared with previous years. With slower payouts, cash and investments remained high and the income from these funds helped main-

tain insurance profits. The dividend was raised 18 per cent to 16.5p a share. The shares rose 1p to 553.5p.

IN BRIEF

 The Government's plans to dissuade accountants from moving their firms offshore to Jersey were published yesterday, in a consultation paper on a new form of limited liability partnership. The proposal is simed at limiting the personal risks of partners in accountancy firms when they are sued for damages. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said "limited liability partnership is already widely available in the USA and in an increasing number of other countries. It should be available in the UK too." The closing date for responses is 16 May.

 A US court vesterday ruled that damages awarded against GKN last year might be reduced by up to 30 per cent. Last December a North Carolina jury awarded \$347m (£216m) in damages against GKN for allegedly defrauding franchise operators of its Meineke Discount Mufflers chain. The parties have been directed to try to agree by next Wednesday a formula for allocating the damages to individual class members. GKN is expected to appeal.

 Lloyd's of London has won its first court victory against rebel names who refused to join last year's £3.2hn rescue plan. A summary judgment in the High Court against two members. Dennis Leighs and David Wilkinson, dismissed their claims that they were not liable to pay money into Equitas, the reinsurance vehicle used for the rescue of the insurance market. Philip Holden, Lloyd's chief debt collector, said: "This enables Lloyd's to pursue all nonacceptors of the settlement."

 Employers are continuing to improve voluntarily the benefits they provide for members of occupational pension schemes, ac-cording to the 22nd NAPF annual survey. Higher payments, more pensions for spouses and dependents and shorter waiting periods to join occupational schemes are among the improvements. Seventy-six per cent of schemes were preparing an increased payment in 1996 compared with 30 per cent in 1975. Contrary to widespread reports, there had no been no wholesale move from final survey to money purchase schemes, the report adds.

Company Results									
	Turngver £	Pre-tax £	EP8	Dividend					
Arcon Intal (F)	1.5m (1.4m)	k0.21m (#-0.48m)	0 08p (-0.3p)	· (-)					
BOC (0)	894m (810m)	103m (101m)	13.4p (13.23p)	데(-]					
Cowness Leisure (F)	2.2m (2.1m)	0.25m (0.23m)	23.1p (20.4p)	50 (-)					
Carisbrook Shipping (F)	12.7m (12.6m)	1.02m (0.92m)	10.880 (10.760)	3.5p (2p)					
City Site Estates (F)	- (·)	0.11m (0.90m)	1.58p (-3.21p)	rd (-)					
Conleter Trust (F)	· [·]	0.91m (0.78m)	4.040 (3.880)	2p (·)					
Easymet Group (1F)	2.16m (0.64m)	-0.97m (-0.11m)	-6.34p (-2p)	nll (-)					
Provident Financial (F)	-(-)	119m (101m)	29.31p (25.17p)	16.5p					
Reak Group (F)	1.08bri (7.7bn)	*297m (408m)	24.1p (28.1p)	12p [11p]					
Verley Group (1)	23.6m (23.1m)	-2.43m (1,24m)	-0.6p (0.5p)	rai (-)					
(7) - Final (1) - Interfer (t) Comparative four	es ere for 17 moreths	*Pre-tax figure is o	ar extension					

塞

Receivers are called in at Scottish Pride

Monday.

Nigel Cope

The milk market turned sour yesterday for Scottish Pride, the former processing arm of the Scottish Milk Marketing Board, when it appointed receivers at two of its main trad-

ing subsidiaries. The company had been in talks to sell its husiness to Robert Wiseman Dairies in a deal which would have given Wiseman 80 per cent of the Scottish market. However, the company had been unable to reach commercially acceptable undertakings with the Office of

Fair Trading. Scottish Pride's shares were suspended at 42.5p yesterday morning pending clarification of the company's financial position. Receivers were later appointed to the two main trading subsidiaries, Scottish Pride and Scottish Pride Foods.

The company has debts of £30m and last month reported increased half-year losses of £2.45m. It has been suffering from a lack of capital, inefficient plants and an oversupplied market. The receivers said substantial losses in the fresh food sector and intense contractition to supply supermarkets and discount retailers had been key causes of the problems. The fi-

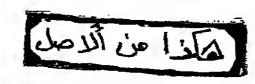
Kwik Save, which stopped its dealings with Scottish Pride on

Blair Nimmo, on behalf of ac-countants KPMG, said: "The company has been in discussion with a number of interested parties for the sale of its trading activities. The request for the appointment of a receiver was made when, against a back-ground of rapidly deteriorating trading, it became clear the company could not be confident that transactions for the sale of the activities would be achieved on satisfactory terms within a reasonable period of time."

Though Scottish Pride itself is not in receivership it has only limited assets. The company is hased in Glasgow and employs 736 staff at 15 production and distribution sites throughout Scotland and the North of England. Group sales last year were £96m. KPMG said there would be no immediate redundancies hut could give no guarantees on future job security.

Scottish Pride is listed on the Alternative Investment Market. The vast majority of its shareholders are farmers who

produce milk for the company. KPMG will continue to trade the Scottish Pride businesses while undertaking a financial review. The main objective was to nal straw was the defection of sell the business as a going two key customers, including concern, KPMG said.



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market report / shares

Asda slips up after NatWest issues a downgrade

NatWest dropped a banana department store empire. Iceskin in the path of Asda's land's shares have been in the share yesterday, cutting its profit forecasts for the food retailer by up to 10 per cent and

changing its recommendation from hold to reduce.

Under Archie Norman's "Renewal" programme Asda averted financial collapse. But the broker sees a levelling off in margins as cost pressures mount and underlying sales growth slows from almost 10

per cent to the industry norm of 4 per cent in 1998/99. There is also a feeling that Asda's unexpected bid for Granada's Welcome Break motorway service stations gives the lie to the food retailer's claim that its core business was performing well.

that Iceland rather let the cat out of the bag on current trading a year ago when it lined up an approach for Littlewoods, the privately owned pools and

dog-house ever since. While Asda's problems are nowhere near as serious, Nat West reckons the shares are worth closer to 100p than the closed at last night.

The PTSE 100 retreated from a new trading high of 4362.4 to close 1.3 lower at 4356.1 in response to a weak opening oo Wall Street. Rank Group, under new chief executive Andrew Teare,

led the way among blue chips, adding 27p to 442p on the back of full-year results and plans to buy back up to 10 per ceot of Also sought was British Airways, up 16.5p to 634.5p oo

good profits from Australian airline Quantas, where BA has a 25 per cent stake. Centrica, the supply arm of the old British Gas, was the

most active stock for the sec-

MARKET REPORT

PATRICK TOOHER

ond day running with 177 mil- One is technical, with chartists lion shares changing hands as US investors bailed out. The shares, though, finished 3.75p firmer at 70.25p.

Reed International remained in demand, rising 47p at one stage before settling a net 10p higher at 1157.5p af-ter the publisher took the took the unusual step of saying it knew of no reason for the re-

cent share price strength.

De La Rue, the banknote printer, had another storming session, ending 25.5p higher at 661p. The shares have risen by almost a quarter in the last couple of months amid steady institutional buying. Several stories help explain the rise.

noting the positive formation of a "golden cross" where the line showing the 38-day moving average crosses the 200-day moving average line on

Another relates to the planned introduction of the euro in 1999. This is likely to more than mop up capacity among European rivals, leav-ing De La Rue free to enjoy better margins in its core third world markets.

P&P's good run continoed, the shares adding 2.5p to 221.5p despite vice-chairman Peter Fisher cutting his stake

lion, or a 7.03 per cent stake. The deal marks another symbolic chapter in P&P's volution. Mr Fisher and his former wife Pam founded the company in 1979 as a distributor of computers The initials of their christian names gave the company its moniker.
But last week a more

broadly based P&P announced plans to change its name to Skillsgroup as it unveiled a 14 per cent increase in full-year

specialist, slipped 5p to 1082p even though the Prudential picked up 81,000 shares to take its stake to 10.4 per cent from 9.9 per cent.

Preston North End scored a 5p gain to close at 550p after winning a lottery grant to build a football museum at the club's Deepdale ground. The project is expected to cost more than

shares at 220.5p on Wednes-day, leaving him with 5.68 mil-come from the grant.

But Manchester United remained out of favour, falling another 13p to 637,5p despite s consolidating its lead at the top of the Premier League with an away win at Arsenal oo Wednesday night. Leeds United, stuffed 4-0 by Livetpool, fared better as shares in parent company Caspian held at 200 at 20

Shares in EasyNet, the Internet service provider, advanced 4p to 66.5p. Losses in the year to December widened to £970,000 but the company said the number of corporate and consumer customers rose

by over 400 per cent. Fish and chip shop chain Harry Ramsden's served up a 2.5p gain to close at 347/5p as a director, M J Barnes, raised £688,000 by exercising and selling options on 200,000 shares at 3.44p, leaving him

Share Price Data

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

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Taking Stock

start to life on the stock market. Placed by Charterhouse

Porvair, the synthetic clothing maker that issued two profit warnings last year. recouped some of Wednes-day's losses when the company revealed a 19 per cent

drop in profits. The shares rose 5p to 255p as house broker Beeson Gregory upgraded its recommen-dation to buy with earnings of 18.1p pencilled in for this year, implying a price/earnings ratio of 14. The broker year justifies a premium rat-

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The state of the

Investment Companies

How virtual banks are close to becoming reality

A revolution is under way in the banking industry which by the turn of the century will see the birth of "virtual banks", according to David Llewellyn, professor of money and banking at Loughborough

University.
"Over the next 10 years we'll see more structural change in the banking industry and more change in the husiness that banks do ... than we've seen in the last 50 to 60 years," he

According to Professor Llewellyn, the upheaval will be dramatic even in the last three years of this century. It is already in progress, signalled by the arrival of new entrants, such as the supermarkets, which are just beginning to

offer hanking products. Sainsbury's Bank, launched this week, is the most significant attempt by a supermarket to get into hanking. In conjunction with Bank of Scotland, Sainsbury's is promising to pay some of the highest rates on savings accounts in the country.

Little wonder, then, that some of the best known hanking names on the high street are hecoming just a little worried ahout what the future holds.

Professor Llewellyn thinks they should be concerned, hut he also thinks they should be pairing up with the supermarket players.

"These are very powerful pressures on the banking industry. Some banks are going to get into trouble. he said yesterday at a seminar on hanking in the 21st century organised by

The cause for concero is not that the supermarkets will snatch all the husiness. "These new guys will never get big market shares but that's not what their damage is going to be. Their damage is taking away the juicy bits, said Professor

The point being that the supermarkets will launch the products that are most profitable and turn their backs on those that cause problems for

Supermarket accounts are just the start of a revolution in handling our money, writes Jill Treanor

expensive branch network, the supermarkets can have a serious impact on banks' pric-work in every household in ing of products and therefore their profitability.

Professor Llewellyn argued that the supermarkets, and for that matter any other nonbanking institution that de-cides to dabble in the banking field, have an advantage at the outset because their fixed costs of doing husiness are very low.

This is because they are subcontracting all their banking operations. In the case of Sainshury's it is Bank of Scotland. Safeway has linked up with Abbey National and Tesco. which had teamed up with NatWest, is now tied to Royal

Bank of Scotland. Other new entrants may be waiting the wings. For instance, Professor Llewellyn thinks

the country, could pose a real challenge.

The supermarket groups also have a hig advantage in that they can swiftly and cheaply quit the hanking business if it proves unprofitable or is simply 100 much trouble.

Professor Llewellyn thinks banks are on a fast track to becoming "virtual", where they act as little more than a computer interface with customers.

The revolution, he predicts. will also mean hanks suhcontracting their husinesses and outsourcing operations. This is not just because of the new competitors hut also hecause of technological advances and regulatory changes.

"I really do believe we're at



New technology has been a

of the banking industry," he

Banks, finally, are catching up with other industries. Just as British Airways contracts out its catering services or Jaguar uses a vast array of suppliers to provide the products for its cars, so banks will do the same.

Supermarkets have been allowed to enter the hanking industry because the barriers have been eroded. New technology has been one prime factor and the high street banks have helped the process by closing thousands of branches and demonstrating that they are

no longer essential. The ultimate technological development is hanking on the Internet, which computer ex-perts predict is one of the piggest threats to the traditional

In five years, Professor Llewellyn sees banks busy monitoring the suppliers to which they have outsourced their activities, just like British Airways juggles the terms on which it is supplied with goods and

But be is aware of a stark anomaly. While the cut-throat competition and continuing costcutting will drive banks to become virtual or "contract banks", it could also lead to further consolidation in the industry. He believes the two images

can co-exist, with some banks following the big is heautiful route to take advantage of economies of scale, while others take the route of the contract bank. There are several small

huilding societies which have a good future because they are going to become virtual," Professor Llewellyn said. For him the importance of

these developments is their potential to do damage to the traditional bank, Banks that succeed will be those that are prepared to change. Diversification could be one

way. The fastest route here would be to beat the supermarkets at their own game and buy one outright - if you can't

Twenty British women and 7,000 Penguins head for the North Pole

Lucy Roberts, former author of this esteemed diary column and part-time marathon runner, is about to walk to the

Ms Roberts is part of a 20strong group of British women who are taking part in the McVitie's Penguin Polar Relay. Five teams of four will take it in turn to walk set distances between northern Canada and the North Pole and Ms Roberts is part of the group which will reach the fi-

hand. The first team leaves for training in Resolute Bay, Canada, this weekend. The participants were selected from more than 60 applicants who had to undergo two weekends of gruelling "SAS-style training," including one on Dartmoor.

nal destination, Union Jack in

ence," recalls Ms Roberts, currently employed by Lighting Design International, a domestic lighting company.

"After each squad has completed its allotted distance, it will be picked up by plane and the next lot starts. We're making history - we will be the first British women to get

"It was a hideous experi-

to the North Pole," says our intrepid explorer. One American woman and one Japanese woman made it in mixed teams, but they had

dogs to pull them. "We will have skis and 150pound sleds. The wind chill factor will take the temperature down to about minus 70, so it'll be pretty cold," she

The main sponsor is McVities, which has provided 7,000 Penguin hars for the women. This is despite the fact that there are no live penguins anywhere near the North Pole. "We all bave to eat four

bars a day," says Ms Roberts.
Another sponsor is Damart, which will supply vi-tal thermal underwear for the Isn't Ms Roberts worried

about losing fingers and toes to frost bite? "Not at all. I'll do whatever it takes to get to the North Pole," she replies

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Unfamiliar territory: penguins prefer southern climes

last May, the on-line informa-

found. Mr Teichman is also a

Mr Compton-Burnett, 35,

founder shareholder of the

Pelican restaurant chain.

is a relative of the late Ivy

Compton-Burnett, the fa-

mous author, "I've spent

quite a lot of time recently

promoting ber work," be says. He thinks her 20 books

may include material suitable

for a TV or film adaptation.

London, will concentrate on

NewMedia, based just

north of Oxford Street in

tion business he helped to

indomitably. When she gets there at the end of May, weather permitting, she's off to do a leg of the Tour de France. I'm off to the pub.

Richard Compton-Burnett has left NM Rothschild after nine years to join hi-tech corporate finance boutique New-Media Investors. In fact coroer shop might be a more accurate description - it's just him and the firm's founder,

Tom Teichman. Hungarian-born Mr Teichman launched the business when be resigned from Maid hi-tech and telecoms compa-nies that need capital. Mr Compton-Burnett, a trained accountant, says they will look at venture capital deals as well as AIM and full list-

The biggest botel chain in the world has a new boss. Thomas R Oliver has been appointed chief executive officer of Holiday Inn Worldwide on the retirement of Bryan Langton.

The company, owned by Bass, has more than 2.200 hotels in 60 countries, so Mr Oliver, an American who lives in Holiday Inn's head office town of Atlanta, Georgia.

will have a husy time of it. Mr Langton, a Brit who has just turned 60, has already extended his stay at the top heyond retirement age in order to give time for a replacement to be found. Mr Langton joined Bass in 1971 and the brewing group's board in 1985. Four years after that Bass bought Holiday Inn.

The BBC has just appointed a new transport correspondent, Simon Mnntague, Mr Montague, the weatherbeaten heart-throb of BBC reporting, turns out to be an experi-

enced sea dog. Nuclear Electric snapped him up to join a round-theworld vacht race. In fact, he was on the Nuclear Electric yacht when interviews for the Beeb job were being held and was interviewed on the boat via a satellitc link.

It's official: Tnny Blair's New Labour Party is the party of business. On Wednesday Hugh Aldons, managing partner of accountants Robson Rhodes, presented Mr Blair with an award from Investors in People (fiP), a prize usually reserved for companies such as IBM and Mercury Asset Management. liP is a national quality standard awarded "to organisations for the training and development of their people". Labour is the first political party to receive it.

Foreign	Exc	hang	e Rate	es			
Sterling				Dollar		- 1	D-Mark
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot
US	16114	11-9	32-29	1000	_	_	0.5919
Canada	2.1895	54-49	164-156	13588	24-23	75-73	0.8042
Germany	2.7226	69-61	203-193	15896	30-28	90-87	10000
France	9.1966	217-138	640-60B	5.7072	86-81	269-258	3.3778
Italy	2695.B	25-40	45-67	16729	27-28	58-60	990)43
Japan	198.33	95-91	281-276	12307	48-47	149-147	728427
ECU	14032	21-18	66-61	11484	13-14	44-45	0.5154
Belgium	56.246	15-10	42-36	34,905	7.5	20-17	20.6587
Dermark		222-177	655-556	6.4475	99-79	298-247	3.8160
Netherlands	3.0577	B2-74	240-226	18975	39-37	121-115	1,1230
Ireland	10253		16-10	15703	6-3	10-6	0.3769
Norwey	10943		380-270	6.7912	50-25	119-69	40194
Spain	23062		31-13	143.11	93-103	107-112	847035
Sweden		220-160	690-580	7.4223	41-16	152-101	43929
Switzerland	2.3881	65-76	239-226	14820	40-37	119-114	0.8771
Australia.*	20907		15-25	12974	14-16	33-35	0.7679
Hong Kong	12473		210-183	7.7405	2-0	2-7	4,5813
Malaysia	40051	0-0	0-0	24855	27-30	80-85	14711
New Zealand	23214	64-71	155-168	14406	54-56	87-99	0.8526
Saudi Arabia	60435		0-0	3.7505	1-4	5-9	2.2197
Singapore	2.2966	0-0	0-0	14252	24-19	70-65	0.8435

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rate quoted low to high are at a premium; *Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals. For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033 Calls cost 50p per minute (day rate) 45p other times. Interest Rates Bond Yields 10yr yleid % 450 597 671 431 533 461 7.75% 30% 130% 80% 561 658 5.85 **Money Market Rates Tourist Rates** £ Burys
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Italy(Lira)
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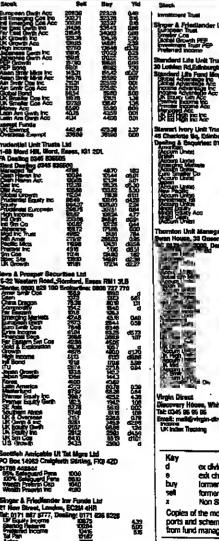
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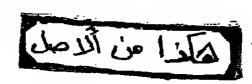
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FRE BEEN

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sport

they left with Wincanton's Cheltenham trials under their belt and, in the case of Coome Hill, with the real thing, the Gold Cup at the Pestival, in his sights. Coome Hill, who warms up

on the beach at Bude when the weather is at its worst, and patched to the Somerset track from Peter Bowen's yard at

Hill made the running and galloped his rivals into the ground.

Even though the winner was receiving 61b from Ungnided Missile, who is no more than an outsider for the Gold Cup himself, the bookmakers were sufficiently impressed to cut his odds for chasing's Blue Riband. Coome Hill is now a top-priced 7-1 with Ladbrokes and the race's sponsor, the Tote. :

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Answers-To-Thomas (Wolverhampton 4.55) NB: My Nominee

Walter Dennis, who was re-

turning to Bude to "feed the bullocks and see the sheep" left full of hope that his imposing bay can make his mark at the Festival. "He will be better go-ing left-handed around Cheltenham as this tight track would not have suited him," Dennis

this race as I haven't done a lot

ficult time after his fall at Sandown as that put a bit of a

Dennis had not expected his charge to dominate the race. "I explained to Jamie [Osborne, his jockey] how I'd like the horse ridden, but out there it was up to him as he knows him so well and knew he'd stay forever."

Osborne reasoned: "We all realised this horse could get beaten if it became a sprint and it made sense to make the running. I was very pleased with him and he's going to be very hard to get to the bottom of. I'm sure the Gold Cap and Grand National distances will suit.

"I went out there hoping Woody [Richard Dunwoody, on Unguided Missile) was going to make it a gallop but go-ing to the first he's just sat there with the handbrake on, so I thought I'd go on."

Whatever he achieves at Cheltenham, yesterday's success makes Coome Hill kook rather well handicapped for the Grand National with just 10st 6lb

with him at home. It was a dif-favourite for the race with William Hill and Ladbrokes. Coral offer 12-1. Osborne added: "If he doesn't win the Gold Cup, the Grand National will be a hell of a consolation."

Unguided Missile was not disgraced and will now join his stablemates One Man, Addington Boy and The Grey Monk m the Gold Cup line-up according to Nicky Richards, the son of the quartet's trainer, Gordon

A copper and magnesium deficiency was diagnosed as the reason for Dreams End's poor recent form but he seemed to have found a new, rich seam of form in taking the Champion Hurdle trial, the Kingwell Hurdle. The 16-1 shot galloped eight lengths clear of Romancer to earn a Cheltenham quote of

40-1 from William Hill. "He's run well and will take his chance at Cheltenham now, but it's not really his track," a

Dut it's not really his track, a slightly downbeat Bowen said. Cheltashast Gold Cup (13 March) Toke: 9-2 Impetel Cal. 5-1 Dorans Pade, 11-2 Darol, 7-1 from 8-1) Cornes HR, 9-1 Duble Pyer, Ore Man, 12-1 Mr Muligan, The Grey Mont, 14-1 Addington Boy, Cytorgo, 16-1 Naturen Lad, 20-1 from 33-1), Unguided Missile, 26-1 Banjo, 33-1 others

					2** 1 	1
2.10	Award	_	YPERION Teasianter	3.10	Pleasu	re

Shared 3.40 Wade Road 4.10 Lackendara 4.40 Nine O Three GOING: Good.

Right-hand course. Practically fist. Run-in of 200yd.

Route is on A308 at Sunbury. Eempton Park railway station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Chub 515, Juniors (18 to 25-year-olds) 512; Grandstard 510; Siver Enq 55. Accompanied children under-16 free. CAR PARIC Members 52; remainder, free.

BLINERIED FIRST TIME: None.
WINDERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Nine O Three (4.40) has been sent 195 miles by A Newcombe from Huntshow, Devon; Smert Remark (3.40) sent 178 miles by T Hind from Lyston, Devon.

2.10 BEDFONT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 5f

23,650 acided 2m 5f

12736 ROYALTHO (44) FOURER (4) 511.5 ______ A Novelet (223.12* MON M 60.0 (27) Towner (4) 511.5 ______ D Gellegier (223.12* MON M 60.0 (27) Towner (5) 51.0 _____ D Gellegier (240.145 MELERSTORD (15) (CD) H Queice 6 11.6 _____ J Cullety (240.145 MONEY CREEK, (14) O Sheward 6 11.0 _____ D Mohemmer 4F MEMPO (51) (67) FOURER (10) 10 10 _____ N MEMPO (51) (67) J Celeut 6 10 10 _____ N MEMPO (51) (67) J Celeut 6 10 10 _____ P Mide (54) (67) J Celeut 6 10 10 _____ P Mide (54) (67) J Celeut 6 10 10 _____ R MEMPO (54) (57) J Celeut 6 10 10 _____ R MEMPO (57) (57) J Celeut 6 10 10 _____ R MEMPO (57) (57) J Celeut 6 10 10 _____ R MEMPO (57) (57) J Celeut 6 10 10 _____ R MEMPO (57) (57) J Celeut 6 10 R MEMPO (57) J Celeut 6 I J Celeut 6 I

2.40 CORINTHIAN HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m

HETTHIG: 4-7 Teephanter, 4-1 The Jogger, 11-2 Poors Wood, 13-2 Fifth Amendment, 5-1 Ameri King, 50-1 Medium

3.10 MANOR NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D)

2 (72-114 MERBLE WIT NO 190 60) U STRINGTO 11 12_ CREENE S 1 1041-11 CREM (RS) Miles it Kriget 7 11 12 _____ J Calloty 4 11-172 PLEASINE SINNESD (24) P Hobis 6 11 12 _____ W Member 5 5005-14 STRISS TACTIC (17) A Mescap 8 11 5 ______ Y Member 6 (30/23 TRIFLE WITCHING (12) N Herdesson 11 11 5 _N Williamson — 6 declared — RETTING FORSEAST: 13-8 Pleasure Sterred, 100-30 Aurolandf, 9-2 Triple Witching, 6-1 Obus, 13-2 Bernde Not To, 100-1 Swips Tactie

3.40 KEMPTON PARK NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m

PORTLANE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) 4.10 £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

4.40 LITTLETON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 5f

1.55 Mustang 2.25 Seconds Away 2.55 Head Gardener 3.25 NORTHEN MOTTO (nap) 3.55 Loch Style 4.25 Jack The Lad 4.55 Delrob STALLS: Inside

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers best from 61 to 1m 4f.

If Phresand, ich-hand, oral course,

If Course is N of town on A449. Wolverhampton station 1m. ADAGSSION: Chb 5.15; Tattersalls 56 (OAP members of Diamond
Chb 5.4); Viewing Ressaurum 525.80 including entrance and meal.

CAR PARK: free.

BLINERRED FIRST TIME: Nuknd (vicered), Young Prederick (1.55); Indian Rapture (vicered), (2.55); Pretty Sally (4.25). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: State Of Gold (2.55) & Forsair (3.25) won at Southwell on Friday, LONG-DISTANCE FUNNERS: Seconds Away (2.25) & North-ers Motto (3.25) sen 285 miles by J Goldie from Uphranoor, Stretchales.

1.55 APPRENTICES' MAIDEN HCAP (CLASS 6) (DIV I) £2,500 added 1m 100yds

— 3.1. December — Allahuten pelgist. 7st 16th. Tue handlers neight; Supreme Masion 7st 5th. BETTIME: 35-8 Homolog. 4-1. Mily Bewaled, 7-1. Receptants Over, 8-1. Supreme Masion, Mastang, 10-1 Young Frederick, 14-1 Maked, Tambur, 16-1 Econolide Dencer, 20-1 others

25 APPRENTICES' MAIDEN H'CAP (CLASS (DIV II) £2,500 added 1m 100yds

2.55 P) £3,300 added 3YO 1m 4f

— 10 declared —

— 10 declared —

BETTPR: 7-4 Head Surdown, 5-2 As-R, 13-2 State Of Gold, 8-1 Kingsdown Trix, 13-1 Stocken Recording, 13-1 Miller Feer Sport, 14-3 Fell Traceshifty, 18-1 Rock Feetawy, 25-1 Indian Reptore, 33-1 Melodic Square

3.25 ADELPHI FOR CNC MACHINING HANDI-CAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 4f

34-2241 FOREMER (7) (D) J J OTHER 5 6 4 (Sep) W Ryan B 034113 W THE MOVEY (D) (CD) (BF) 9 Hollestood 6 6 1 D Grittles (S) 6 10 4440-63 AMBIDEKTROUS (\$) E Aston 5 6 4 _______F Lynch (\$) 8 11 5/455 CLASSIC ACCOUNT (\$0) J.L.Byro 5 7 10 _____R Filtench (7) 7 12 00(0064 INSSED THE BOAT (\$05) A Neucomba 7 7 10 N Verley (\$) 1

BETTME: 5-2 Northern Motto, 4-1 in The Money, 9-2 Mr Spaceholor, 8-5 Arbot Flyer, 10-1 Ambidestrom, Porzair, 12-1 Backview, Promier Dan 14-1 Up in Flumos, 15-1 Cherter, 25-1 Others

3.55 EAST MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,350 added 7f

— 10 declared — BETYNG:7-2 Epile Hope, 4-1 Three Auch Briege, 9-2 Mr Nevermind, 5-1 Gelf Shoud, 7-1 Devells, 10-1 Pengapus, Leige Crofter, 12-1 Mrs, Sario,

4.25 WELLOW SELLING STAKES (CLASS F)
(QUALIFIER) £3,300 added 3YO 7f

OO PRINCE EMAR 691 T Eastedy 6 11 _R trople G 660-23 PREITY SALLY (8) 6 Marry Smith 66 ____ D Henrison 1.6 60-0 SODELIK (18) J Heitnerum 8.6 ____ C Renter 9 6002-54 TERRY'S ROSE (11) R Holinsteed 6.6 ____ F Lynch (3) 3

- S declared - BETTING: 7-4 Fast Spin, 3-1 Jack The Lad, 5-1 Pretty Selly, 7-1 Diamond Spre, 8-1 Terry's Poss, 10-1 Contravenc, 12-1 Julie's Relative, 14-1 Prince Emer, 25-1 Sodelk

4.55 FARNDON HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 6f

40000-4 TANHISO (USA) (38) 6 Chapman 8 10 6...

BETTHIC: 11-4 Bold Prontice, 8-7.4 Hot Majestic, 8-1 Detroit, Stud Lagina, 10-1 Marjorie Rosa, 12-1 Napoleon Star, Sir Taelan, 14-1 Simpton sons Rocket, America-To-Thomas, Needle Match, Spendy Sneps Pride,

HYPERION 2.20 Flaming Miracle (nb) 2.50 As Du Trefle 3.20 Mugoni Beach 3.50 Nick The Beak 4.20 Carisle

Banditos's 4.50 Total Joy

GOING: Good.

Itel-hand sharp, oval course.

Course is 3m SE of town and 5m W of Newark. Rollesson Junction adjoints course. ADMOSSTON: Club X.12; Taxemails 25 (CAP members of course's Diamond Club £4, accompanied under-16s free), CAR PARK: Free

BLINGKERED POINT TOUR: Comberland Youth, Day Hill Led (4.50).

IMARIANED PRETTRIES Comberland Youth, Day HIS Led (4.50). WINNESS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DEFANCE EXPENDERS & Du Treffs (2.50), Magord Beach (3.20) & Pinherton's Pai (4.20) have been sext 211 miles by M Pipe from Nicholashayne, Devor; Callebay Chocolaste (3.20) & Mr Strong Gale (3.50) sext 179 miles by P Nicholas from Ditchest, Somerse.

2.20 NIGHTINGALE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m

HETCHAR 2-1 Fluming Minute, 4-1 Scott Peters, 5-1 Segment, 8-1 Weshelp, 19-1 Storing, Old Reduced, 12-1 Mr Seen, 16-1 Record Lever, Dunch Imp. 20-1 Rises Major

2.50 PHOENIX NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 110yds

— y cocurero BETCHIC: 8-13 As De Trofie, 4-1 Lettery Yicket, 13-2 Pearls Choice, 8-1 Pasel Spee, 12-1 Easy Brewy, 25-1 Demosés, 50-1 others

3.20 ADELPHI FOR CNC H'CAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 110yds . 33P2-04 MUNICH REACH (10) M Pipe 12 12 6.....

-9 deciared -BETTING: 2-1 Magazi Busch, 6-2 Father Sty, 7-2 Ready A Rescal, 11-2 Children Caccelate, 8-1 Croppedy Lad, 20-1 Young When

3.50 EAST MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY H'CAP HUR-DLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 3m 110yds 12423/6 LINGON ROCKS (13) T Thomson Jones 8 12 D...X Abgure (7) FORTUNES COURSE (36) (CO) J King 6 11 4 ____ 7 J Marphy 5-61310 NICK THE BEAK (13) J Upper 8 11 4 ______ Supply

– 11. deciment – num weight: 10st. True innedicup weighes: Kadari Sul Sits. Suda Bhy Sul

Administration weight: 105t. The Indicates Weights: Foreign Sp. Seven Say Sec. 120, Neith In The Money 7st 10th.
BESTIMES 5-2 for Strong Cale, 3-1 Fortunes Course, 5-1 Linton Bocks, 11-2 Nick The Book, 8-1 Phonore, 12-1 Napamour, Ringinski, 10-1 Kedani, 25-1 Johanny's Thun, 33-1 Sanin Bay, 50-1 We're in The Money

4.20 ALBATROS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m

20-11F CARLERE BANDITO'S (15) | Berry 5112 _____ M Michael P DIA GEORGY (9) C Dayer 811 2 ... 1/00/P- MEDIANI. (USA) (407) 6 Bernett 7 11 2.... 0 OTTO E MEZZO (9) M Polylage 5 11 2 NACRES STUR (\$18) W Clay 7 10 11 Guy Lends (8) RESKY TU P Kelesey 610 11.

BETTING: 7-4 Carliste Bundity's, 5-2 Plakerion's Pal, 7-2 Ring Of Vision, 8-1 Otto E Mezzo, 10-1 Bisky 7s, 16-1 Die Georgy, 25-1 Gree 33-1 Neberl, 50-1 Dodgy Duncer, Kartha

4.50 VULTURE NOVICE HERDLE (CLASS D) £3,850 added 2m 4f 110yds 1 60-3221 SMOLENSK (68-60) J Berry 5 11 10

OCPP CUMBERLAND YOUTH POJ MESS C Cards 6 11 4... I Lamance 9 2FF DRY HELLIAD (13) I Notion 8 11 4 Dente Byrne 8 00' FRADICANT (642) G Bened 8 11 4 S Wyene 6-5 GEISWAY (CAN) (22) N Water 7 11 4 ____ 40 PUSH ON POLLY (64) J Paties 7 10 13 ... - 14 declared -

SETTER: 9-4 Total Joy, 7-2 Sentionsk, 6-1 Julya, Captain Hurter, 8-1 Rostsh-Sold Figur, 10-1 Watch Leat, 12-1 General, Dry Hill Led, 16-1 Push Da Polly, 20-1 Over Zealous, 25-1 Asterctica, 50-1 Competent Youth, First-

Ipswich to exploit Slough's absence

Hockey BILL COLWILL

lpswich, at full strength and raring to go, are looking to be three points clear at the top of the Premier Division of the Women's National League after they entertain Hightown at Tuddenham Road tomorrow.

The current leaders, Slough, equal on points with the Suffolk club, are in Amiens for the European Indoor Club Championship, where they are looking to improve on their previous two silver medals in 1990 and 1995. But it will be no easy task to break the German strangle-hold on this event.

Slough have been drawn in the same pool as the 1993 winners, Berliner, who last weekend surprisingly only managed to finish third in the German play-offs. Yet, with players like the brilliant 19-year-old Natascha Keller, Irina Kuhnt and the experienced Anke Wild in the squad, they will be formidable opposition when Slough play them in their final pool

game tomorrow evening.
With Karen Brown fit and the addition of Ireland's Sarah Kelleher to their experienced squad, English hopes are high. Slough open their campaign this evening against Donchanka, the Russian champions, and then play Lokomotiva Raca from Slovakia tomorrow morning.

Back home, although likely to be without their international striker Sarah Blanks, who was mjured in an England training weekend, Balsam Leicester are confident of climbing away from the relegation zone.

Although Clifton, who they visit tomorrow, have lost the services of the Welsh internationals Ann Bevan and Nicky Swann and the long-serving Angie Wright, it will be no easy task for Leicester. The visitors are pinning their hopes on the 19-year-old Carol Voss, who was in impressive form last weekend in the England Under-21 side which beat the se-

Gogele flight

Thomas Gogele shot a course record eight-under 64 at the Houghton Golf Club to hold the first-round lead in the Alfred **Dunhill PGA in Johannesburg** yesterday.

The only blemish on the German's card came at the par-four fourth, where his wayward one-iron tee shot hit the trees and he had to settle for a five. Gogele, the son of the former European Tour professional Karl-Heinz, could have matched the title holder Sven Struver's 63, recorded in the rain-shortened event last year. However, Struver's 63 was not allowed as a course record as placement of the ball on the fairways was permitted because of the poor weather conditions.

Gogele's putt for an eagle on the par-five ninth slipped 10st past and he had to work hard for the birdie. But the 26-year-old from Munich was far from unhappy about his approach play.

"I didn't have to hole any-thing really long," he said. "Just about all the birdies were from six or seven foot. I am playing the best golf of my year so far. I'm relaxed and getting a little more consistent. Massimo Scarpa, tied for second, teed off on the 10th and

started his charge to the top of the leaderboard by chipping in for a birdie at the par-four 13th and immediately followed that with birdies on the next two holes to be out in 33. Retief Goosen was bracket-

ed with Scarpa on seven-under after going out in 33 and re-turning in 32. The South African was aided by hitting to 10ft for an eagle on the 463-metre 15th and making the putt.

Scores, Digest, page 25



Missile fails to stop Hill's march to Festival

JOHN COBB

They both blew in from the westernmost reaches of Britain;

Dreams End, who was dis-Haverfordwest, by the Pembrokeshire coast, came to racing's heartland and strode away with two of the final recognised trials for Cheltenham, which is

now less than three weeks away. Coome Hill, was the one wbo really impressed, although his winning margin over Un-guided Missile in the Jim Ford Chase was only a length and a quarter. Despite the track being too sharp, the going too fast and lacking full fitness after an uncharacteristic fall on his previous start had robbed him of

2.00 Jervaulx 2.30 General Wolfe

Stand), CAR PARK: Free,

SIS RICHE

3.30 Eudipe

3.00 Kingdom Of Shades

(Haydock 4.30)

HAYDOGE

4.00 Barton Ward

5.00 Mutana

Len-hand course with imposing drop lences and run-in of two furiouss.

Course is near junction of A580 and M6. Newton station 2m., ADMISSION: Councy Stand & 15; Tattersalls 53; Newton Stand & 4 (OAPs helf-price in Tattersalls and Newton Stand).

ERADING JOCKEYSE Dumbood—22 winners, 261%, -22.00,

ELENDING JOCKEYSE Dumbood—22 winners, 1616s, 29.3%, -519.62; M Day

-17 winners, 109 rides, 15.6%, -550.09; C Llewellya — 12 winners, 48 rides, 28

+518.53; D Bridgwater — 11 winners, 44 rides, 25%, +53.58,

BLINEERED FIRST TIME: River Boundy (2.30); Travel Bound (4.30),

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

2.00 TWEEDLE DUM 'NH' NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS

-8 declared -Minimum weight: 10st, True weight: Prince Of Sales Sut Sto, Mayleston Set 7th, Wheer More But 1th.

1996; Pyrawake 5 10 6 K Durwpoy 9-1 pa W estately 11 say

FORM CRIDE

THE PROMS' form is good enough having besten subsequent winner Marching Marquis at
Lingloid and then second, conceding 6th, to My Chesty Main at Towcaster — that winner
going on to best Whip Hand at Market Resen on Tuesday. Jervesta is a lovely nort for the
stiture. He best a big field at Ayr after a bumper run and was then glying away 6th when
besten by Foresworn on the same course. He is the danger gatting 13th. Logical Shap didn't find that much at Chepstow two outlings ago and he makes limited appeal, while Phar
Echo best Lifebury over a longer tip at Ayr last time and is now 9th higher over a journey
fixely to prove a bit sharp. Stilly Money is fully exposed and deem't look up to the task, but
Mapteton (seven lengths behind Jervautz at Ayr) and Prince Of Salatis nave both displayed
some promise and could go well with their feather weights.

Selection: THE PROMS

2.30 WHITE RABBIT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added

BETTING: 5-2 General Wolfe, 7-2 Northests, 9-2 Destin D'Estavel, 5-1 McGangor The Third, 8-1 Caraclot Knight, 8-1

added 2m 4f Penalty Value £4,815

FORM GUIDE

Botshie Baron. 3.06: 1. DREAMS END (R Durwood) 16-1;

2. Remander 11-4 for; 3. Heast Presen 4-1. 6 mm. 8, 7, /P Bowery. Total: £13.50; £2.90, £1.00, £2.50, DF; £16.30, GSP. £56.83. The

165.8) NR: MS LINIC. 3.85: 1 MAESTRO PAUL (LASPER) 13-2;

2.85: 1. MAESTRO PAUL (L'Aspell) 13-2; 2. Scotoni 16-1; 2. Harvest View 13-8 km. 7 ma. 2; hd. U Gelordi, Tetre 58, 10; 52-20, 53-70, DF: £56.10, CSF: £78.56. 4.06: 1. THE FLYING PHANTOM for the wood; 5-1; 2. Give And Tales 6-4 fee; 3. Crandon Boulevard 20-1; 18 mm. 1½, 5. (Al Tomplaris), Tokic £7.30; £2.80, £1.50, £6.10. DF: £9.20. CSF: £12.78. Thes £22.00.

2.00 TWEEDLE DUM 'NH' NOVICE HANDICAP HURI
C) £5,000 added 2m Pennelty Value £3,534
43512 THE PROMS (14, 187) 04s; 1 Model N Tweton-bases 6 11 10
499(63 LORGEN, STEP (14) (A E Smith) 0 Gendelty 7 10 12
LENVAULX (15) (b) (BF) Robert Option) G Richerts 6 10 11
043011 PHAR ESHO (25) (b) (BF) Robert Option) G Richerts 6 10 11
0-44425 SRITY MOMEY (15) (b) (Be Dearly Y Enterly 6 10 6
060 MAPLETON (25) (left Strong) Mcs S Smith 4 10 0.
03(07) WHITER MORRI (253) (S Appinell Capt J Wilson 7 10 0.

ton, 12-1 Prince Of Seints, 33-1 Whiter Many 1-11 1916; Purevalve 5 10 6 R Durwoody 9-2 84 W Estately, 11 ten

3m Penalty Value £4.531

4.30 Country Tarrogen

"I think he will be better for

and he was promoted to 10-1 3.30 GLENGOYNE HIGHLAND MALT NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,631.

1F111F SMPTY DASHING (20) (CD) (MF) (Steve Harmond) T Extends (5 21/34P MALOR CDOK (MZ) (X3) (Alls H) Claries) S Boolenker 9 11 6 ...
411112 BIDDPE (FR) (24) (D) (MF) (D 4 Johnson) M Pipe 5 11 4 ...
32 GARSTHSON (22) (D & 9 Mence) Max H Knight 6 11 4
53520-4 GONE AWAY (32) (Comelus Lysagra) M Harmond 8 11 4

BETTHER: 10-11 Padge, 11-10 Simply Dashing, 10-1 Saretheon 1990: The Grey Monk 6 11 1 R Dunwoody 2-7 (3 Rignerity) 4 ray

FORM GLIDE EUDBPE looks a steel getting 10to from Simply Dealling effer his emooth Stratford win and subsequent second to the cleany Squire Silk at Newbury. Eudipe has won twee in the most in France and the return to two and a half is very motor, in his favour. Simply Dealing has either won or fatten since jumping fences. On his bottom at Africae and Sandown (last time), ha has won on the course, but this tooks a stem test at the weights on his run-up to the tenham Festival. The remaining trio are not expected to trouble Euripe on these term

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE/JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION SERIES HICAP HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f £2,853 10/1541 OAT COUTURE (13) (b) Vishleybank Investments Ltt) L Lungo 6 12 6 ... 54300P ELPIDOS (13) (Mrs Meng Winler) M Hammond 5 11 10 ... WARNINGS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Tiberan (3.00) has been sent 242 miles by Lady Herrick from Angmering Park, W Sussex; Royal Scientists (5.00) sent 232 miles by Mrs A Perrett from Pulborough, W Sussex; Allegation (3.00), Diwall Dances (3.00), Brailpe (3.20), Big Strand (4.00), Break The Rules (5.00) & Matamasaih (5.00) sent 200 miles by M Pipe from Nicholashayne, Devon.

DETINOT 5-1 Topsonyor, 5-1 Berton Ward, 13-2 Percentus, 7-2 Selectus, Out Contains, 8-1 Big Str. 30-1 Hondrichter, 12-1 Caselor's Boy, Bang in Trackle, 16-1 Highles, Auditorine vortes, 20-1 N Cone, 33-1 Syport Territor 1998: Saint Clei 8 10 12 J Lodger 2-1 (F Jordan) 8-ran - . .

BARTON WARD meles plenty of appeal with his stoying power. The race has a competi-BAIRTON Wasto melest plenty of appeal with his staying power. The race has a competitive look about it, but barton Word gets a stone from recent by whener det Coetare, and
he had shown promise (third to Agistment and Mighty Moss) prior to his win from Spariding
Spring at Uttower. Although besten on a return trip to Uttowerer a formight ago, Berton
Ward still ran well with his penalty against Mentmore Towers over a longer journey and the
stable has been anjoying plenty of success with staying chaster. Lord Gylfers. Topewayer
an a stacker after the layoff when second to here Cornes Herbie at Catteriet has mornts,
but he has to prove he can handle the revi-softened ground. Selatast tild not show much
falong with Hoodwisher) behind Hersletts Howard at Leicester on his reappearance and
Cassid's Boy, fourth in that race, could again prove better than Richard Dunwoody's mount
with Paul Carberry just the sort of nder to Improve him a few pounds. Recent Wetherby winner Purevalue is only 3to higher today and reten the preference over Big Strand, who looks
high enough in the weights.

4.30 WALRUS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m

. T		Penarty Vanie £1,544	
1	131/05	COUNTRY TARROGER (200) (0) (Mrs M. Coope) 7 Welford 6 12 7	20 (5
2	377FF8-2	LORD RELIC (92) (14) (44) H J Clarke) S Brookshaw 11 11 7	rd (7
3	11133-3	MY NOMENEE (14) (D) (DF) (D E Nicholle) & Nicholle & 12 7	m
4	3F2/411-	THE MAJOR GENERAL (SIE) (D) Globert Option) G Richards 10 12 7 Copt A Option	i
5	PUS-000	CHARLES DELICAT (LA) (housen Partnership) Mrs.C Highs B 12 4Mr A Season	oe (E
6	1-F	MASTER KIT (9) (9)F) (J N R Billings) J Billings 6 12 4Mr J Billings	p (7
7	0/42/	GLEN DAK (1084) (R J Marsoll) O Duggary 12 12 6	4 (2
8		MREMEANLES (335) (F Nichols) F Michols 7 12 0	
9		MORELE MESSENGER (114) (Mis O Samurity T George 612 O Mine & Summer	
10	002/64P	· TRAVEL BOUND (\$38) (of Mullinesus) M Mullinesus 12 12 0	(7)
11	1PPPQP-	WILL IT LAST (436) (F Members) F Members 11 11 6	= (7

—11 dockerd — 11 d General, 14-1 Travel Found, Mobile Messenger, 18-1 Milemen 1990: Clare Man & 12 2 Mr M Ringell 7-4 (N Teleton-Dance) & no

PORM GUIDE

DESTRIN D'ESTRUVAL, is interesting but over fances since his winning days in France. Dowd Nucholson has kept him to hurdles and the way he ran against Rough Quest at Follwatone in December showed what a fair sort he is. He has since twice been oursinyed behind Young Kenry over three miles, but chesing is a different game and he may get home this time. General Welte has been waring for the ground to see and he best Encore Lin Pau in this race last year. Camelot Knight showed some of his old shifty at Folkestone on his respondence when second to Brave Boccaneer. Gamelou has a big weight on his first nur since his fine form with Smoon Christian, while Medinegor The Third is a bouncer off fast ground so he looks open to stack after the eight. River Bountly hes done little on three starts the term, hence the first time biliviers. Northausts has his ground and hes won over those forces. He couldn't best a couple of oldiziners in Whispering Steel and Alkodgen at Ayr on his responsance, but the run will here improved him. LORD RELIC's first run lost session was in the Elder at Newcastle. It was not any easier LORD RESUCS for tun lest season was in the Elder at Newcastle. It was not any easier next time (Gold Cup) either and this has to he his turn back over a stayers' trip after his seasonal second to stablemats lach Maid at Bangor (2m4f). My Nominee was talled off in that Bangor race when looking in need of the run, though this outing may also be wanted to get him in to top condition. Country Tarrogen's points runs this sent afrows he's back to his useful form of two seasons ago and he is the one Lord Retic has to best despite felling to complete in this race lest year when The Major General was beaten a long way on his first run for two seasons but then successful at Sandown and Wetherby, Masser Kit, a In for two accessors but their successors at stemporm with trouping, mission in a pointer test season though a follor at Musselburgh this month, books clear best season. Selection: LORD RELC

3.00 QUEEN OF HEARTS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,000 5.00 LEVY BOARD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m Penalty Value £3,039

HETEING: 7-4 Royal Scinolius, 7-2 Metamesels, 4-1 Break The Rubes, 6-1 Mr Moonlight, 6-1 Cool As A Cocumber, 10-1 Sutherwick (Reg. 12-1 Hivenes, 16-1 Inscille, 20-1 others 1990: Dark Sternger 5 11 8 D Gallegher 9-2 (C Brooke) 10 ren

FORM SLIDE ROYAL SCREETAR locks the business. A bit classy on the Flat with Paul Cole, Royal Scin pourse, securities come and comments in a case of the raid was read code, in the soft because he beat Leonato end a real mudover Snow Princes at Chester on his fired start lead August. Linglish lest week showed that Mintenaceth doesn't like too much in the way of mud, and his stablemane Break The Raides won easily enough at Tayraon less week, but he shed the fast on the level and this ground was be more testof Tauragin Set week, D.B. he sted up 1885, or use some and use prices when it has to drop on hit Moonalight in view of the stablets when it the taue fast year. He has run well in two big bumper fields - shaping a deal bacter in that teague than Cool As A Cucumber, Rheesux is another promising sort from the bumper division - he contested a hot race at Aintree - but Buttherwick King looks destined to do before over a longer this.

Selection: ROYAL SCIMITAR

FORM GUIDE

MISTER MOROSE is a winning bumper home who is going to be hard to best now that he focus two and a half miles. He has been lenlandly dropped 3th for his severith to Make A focus two and a half miles. He has been len lead for heri. He had previously looked a bit tasty on the same course when galloping clear of che-Yo, and today's tip and ground look absolutely perfect for him. Therain had it to do under 12st at Wetherby last time and look absolutely perfect for him. Therain had it to do under 12st at Wetherby last time and look absolutely perfect for him. Therain had it to do under 12st at Wetherby last time and look absolutely perfect for him. Therain had it to do under 12st at Wetherby last time and look absolutely guide for the him and the return to one of his winning courses suggests a good knowing with his low weight. The hendesper may have hold of Burst law, eith would have showing with his low weight. The hendesper may have hold of Burst law, eith would have showing with his low weight. The hendesper may have hold flaunt law, eith would have showing and ageinst him at Sendown states in the ground ageinst him at Sendown states in the state of the sendown service of the sendown service and Allegation state on his first run of the season. Outset reversed the form at Sendown when linishing a credigable fourth to Tulymuny 7off, and as Curser elso likes some cut in steel finishing a credigable fourth to Tulymuny 7off, and as Curser elso likes some cut in steel finishing a credigable fourth to Tulymuny 7off, and as Curser elso likes some cut in steel finishing a credigable fourth to Tulymuny 7off, and as Curser elso likes some cut in steel finishing a credigable fourth to Tulymuny 7off, and as Curser elso likes some cut in steel finishing a credigable fourth to Tulymuny 7off, and as Curser elso likes some cut in the ground he can be fanced to finish in front of Burst Imp. gain on the 4th worse served. RACING RESULTS £1.50, £1.50, £19.50, £3.10. OF: £14.70. CSF: £14.97. Tricest: £705.33. Tric: £1,625.40; £938.67 carried forward to Hay-WINGANTON

2.05: 1. BEDIAN JOCKEY IN Westmann)

11:9; 2. After The Fox 11:1; 3. Robius Pride

16:1. 7 After The Fox 11:1; 3. Robius Pride

16:1. 7 After The Fox 11:1; 3. Robius Pride

16:1. 7. After Security In Inc. 7. 11

IM Pipol. Total: £2.10; £1.40, £2.30. DF; £4.90, £5.10 COME HILL (J Osborne 7-4; 2. Legalded Missile 11:8 tay. 3. Hensikhes

33:1. 7 Am. 1%, 20. IM Detrics. Take: £3.00; £1.20, £1.50. DF; £2.80, CSF: £4.55. NR: Rosshe Barun. WINCANTON

1.,63.40, 25.50 dock 4.00 today, 5.05: 1. NOISY MINER (R Massey) 15-8 fax; 2. Piscot 33-1; 3. Resignare Wolf 33-1. 17 cm. 12. sin-hd. (D Nicholson). Tota: 53,60; 52.30, 512.70, 57-90. OP. £107.40. CSF: £85.7B. NR: Jim's Quest, Tric: Not won, mot: Not won; £37,485.69 carried for-

part to Heydock today.
Placepot: £231,60. Quadpot: £79,40.
Place 9: £183.50. Place 5: £59.05. HUNTINGDON 1.50: 1. LADY HIGH SHERIFF (S Wyrne) 9-2; 2. Sambrook Lad 11-8 fax; 3. Cades Bay 16-1; 4. Katheliou 33-1. 16 ran. 10. nk. (T Forse), Toker 54-40; 51-10, 51-20, 51.90, 55.10. DF 65.30. GSF: 59-24. TH cost 589.08. This 527.70. NR: Postovo. 2.20: 1. GELTIC BARLE (S McNell) 17-1; 2. Eastern River 13-8 lar; 3. Solo Gent 9-1. 12 ma. 14. (H Hooge). Tute: £8.80; £1.80, £1.90, £1.80. DF: £13.70, CSF: £25.73. (In-22.00.
A.SE 1. ALIMAYS HAPPY (A Maguet) 7-2
Cott. £151.87. This: £45.70. Cott. £152.87. This: £45.70.
Cott. £151.87. This: £45.70. D Stidgment's HAR
Cott. £151.87. This: £45.70. T

3.20; 1. THUMBS UP (R Hobson) 5-1; 2. Regal Romper 9-4. Only two finished. 5 ran. 2-1 tw Eastern Magic (unsealed ruler). 15-(6 McCourt). Tota: £5.80; £1.70, £1.50. DP. £4.80. CSF: £15.81. NR: Fine Hervest.

24.00. LSF: 125.00. Part 7am 155.00. S. 150: 1. 1691444874 (D Gallegrer) 3-1 for 2. Arrives 5-1: 3. Talesamente 7-2. 22 mm. 2. 1%. (T D Barron). Tota: 24.60: 52.30, 52.20, 52.20, DF: £12.10. CSF. £17.82. Tox 4.25: 1 FRAZER ISLAND (D O'SLINARI) 14-1; 2. Mandys Marrino 2-5 far; 3. Second Cell 7-2, 7 ran. 2, 20. (R Rowe). Total: £8.90; £2.00, £1.20. DF: £8.40. CSF:

£18.35. 4.55: 1. SHERHTMUR (Mr P Scott) 4.55: 1. Street-Fine (of F. Sch) 13-8166; 2. Also hatematical 50-1; 2. Big-wheel Bill 2-1. 8 cm. 9, %. (Ata 1 Watham). Tota: \$2.80; £1.50, £3.10, £1.10. Df: £38.60. CSF. £50.90. Tricast: £157.96. Photopot: £17.80. Quadpot: £10.70. Place 6: £11.11. Place 5: £8.32.

6-1. 8 ram. 14, 1. (P Nichols), Totac £2.80; 40-1. 8 ram. 4, 10. (R Ingam), Totac £1.50; £1.40, £2.10; £1.10. DF: £8.10. CSF: £1.10, £1.10. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.08. £18.77. 2,46: 1. NUSTINEARUS (A Del) 50-1; 2. Newington Butte 7-1; 2. Double Open? 7-4. 7 rms. 5-4 for Myttons Mistaile (4th). 1½, ½. (1 Bridger), Totos: £39,80; £8,70, £3,20. DP. £98,40. CSF: £328,47. 3,15; 1. REFF! (S Winburth) 9-4 fm; 2. houy's Grabt Hire 11.-2; 3. Superior 12-1. 9 rm. ½, 1½, (2 ingent), Totos: £2,80, £1,70, £1,50, £2,40, DF: £8,00, CSF: £13,23. Tricast: £106,99, Tricz £42,00. NP: Master Of Passion;

3.45:1 TALLIEAH BELLE (TGMCLSugh-3.40::1. Tatlatan select (18.Mcaugh in) 9-1: 2. Shanghai LE 9-4 for; 3. Queens Stroller 10-1. 10 ran. 6, 5. (N Lumcden). Tota: £8.00: £2.30, £1.10, £5.70. DF: £18.20 CSF: £27.78. Tricost £197.00. Tric 4.15: 1. AGENT (Deen McKeown) 5-2; 2.

4.15: 1 AGENT (Denn McVeown) 5-2; 2.
Zabaya 7-1; 3. Permag Petty 4-6 tav. 8 ran.
2, 1% () (1 Eye), Tobe 53.40; 61.10, 61.80.
UP: £8:00, CSP: £17.43.
4.48: 1. THE WYANDOTTE INN (F Lynch)
4-1; 2. Plan For Profit 11-4 fay; 2. Swift
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£13.79; Unser: £41.57.
Placapot: £378,20, Quadpot: £11.60.
Place 6: £127.91. Place 5: £119.00.

Satellites provide path to the stars

ast Sunday was going as well as it could have done lfor Denis van Uffelen – until it came to the question of

Belgium's 16th-ranked tennis player, reconstructing his career after an elbow operation, bad just earned himself £1,000 by winning the second event of the LTA Men's Indoor Satellite at Chigwell.

Now he needed to get to Eastbourne, where the third of the circuit's four stages was to take place. And there was no car to take him. He left, clutching his racquets and the knowledge that it was 21 stops on the Underground to Victoria, where he could get the train down to the South Coast. To say he looked dejected would he unfair. Resigned was more the word.

For the band of players currently sojourning hetween Bramhall, Chigwell Eastbourne and Croydon, the LTA satellite event is a stop on the line which leads, ideally, to two further stations: Challenger events - and then the hig terminus of the ATP Tour,

To get on board at the satellite stage - which operates all over the world - players need to be hetween 200 and 600 in the world rankings; Challenger events involve those between 60

The player coming out on top in the current satellite circuit can earn up to 50 ATP points, which could move him 50 places up the rankings. Patrick Hughesman, of the LTA, reckons that 10 per cent of those at satellite level go on to higher ships in Florida six years ago. At

Mike Rowbottom meets the tennis hopefuls on the hard road to the ATP Tour

to take a couple of years to work their way through.

Such was the career path of Tim Henman - to pluck a name out of the air - who began playing saidlite tournaments in the autumn of 1993 and made a final appearance in February '95, rising in the process from 774th to 167th in the world.

"When I first saw Tim at 17, he came across as heing very thin and spindly." Hughesman recalled. "But he has filled out a lot. He has a powerful huild

With Wimbledon four months away, Henmania is already hudding up for 1997. But Hughesman recalls that, at the time Britain's current No 1 was starting on the satellite scene, all the media attention was directed at his school-mate, James Baily, the winner of the 1993 Australian Open junior titie, who has since dropped out

of the sport. Henman's rise to fame has been inspirational, rather than daunting, for another of his old mates from Reeds School in Cohham: Jamic Delgado, who reached the Chigwell final before succumbing 6-3, 6-4 to Van

Uffelen's power-serving game. Delgado. 20 today, had the mixed blessing of achieving notable success at a young age, becoming the first Briton to win a ride at the Orange Bowl international junior championthings. It is not a huge propor- 14, he was among the top 10 ju-

con, and those that make it tend to take a couple of years to work around 300 in the world, this fine natural stroke player is having to work hard to follow in his schoolmate's footsteps. That he has only grown to 5ft 8in means that task is harder for

> As Van Uffelen blasted down ace after ace on to the fast car-pet surface in Chigwell on Sunday, it seemed that Delgado would need to put in some serious work in the weights room to allow his talents to shine. Delgado, however, remains optimistic. "When I won in Florida, obviously people did expect me to do well," he said. "But that's not my problem. 1 am very close to Challenger level

"Seeing Tim and Greg Rusedski do so well has a positive effect on players like myself. It inspires us to try and get to where they are. I often practice with Tim and Greg at Queen's Club, and they are both very

"Tim is very sensible, and he has given me a lot of advice on strategy and how to cope with various experiences.

As Van Uffelen and Delgado strive to move onwards and upwards in Easthourne this week, the key strategy has to he one of survival. Delgado, at least, is likely to get a wild card to play at Wimbledon. He will know as well as anybody that, if he can produce his hest tennis there, it will do more for him than 50 ATP points,



Kuerten consigns Agassi to early exit

ranked No 83 in the world, took advantage of a hlistering serve and Andre Agassi's tender an-kle to defeat the former world No 1 in 65 minutes at the St Jude tournament in Memphis

The fourtb-seeded Wimbledon runner-up, MaliVai Washington, also slowed by an injury he suffered in winning a Davis Cup singles match against Brazil, lost 7-6, 6-3 to the

Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil. 108th-ranked Argentinian, Jav- Spadea. All the seeded players did not commit a single double halted for around 10 minutes ier Frana.

In other second-round upsets, Germany's Alex Radulescu heat the sixth seed Jason Stoltenberg of Australia, Armenia's Sargis Sargisian removed the ninth-seeded American Alex O'Brien, Guillaume Raoux, of France, knocked out the 14th secd, Mark Woodforde of Australia, and Jeff Tarango heat the 16thseeded fellow American Vince

had received first-round byes fault. and were seeing their first action of the tournament.

Todd Martin, twice the champion and the third seed, did progress, however, by overcoming the American qualifier Bryan Shelton 6-4, 6-4.

However, the performance of the 20-year-old Kuerten was the revelation of the night. The Brazilian drove in 18 aces, won 29 of 32 first-serve points and

nice," Kuerten said. "One year ago I was sitting by my TV at home watching [Agassi] play." Kuerten was also matching

Agassi groundstroke for groundstroke and hlasting winners past the Las Vegan even before Agassi sprained his already injured ankle in the second set. With the Brazilian leading 6-4, 3-1, the match was

while Agassi's ankle was raped "For me, this was pretty and examined, allowing him to continue.

Martina Hingis, the Australian Open champion, yes-terday signed a three-year sponsorship deal with Opel, believed to he worth around £300,000 a year - substantially less than the 10-year deal with Steffi Graf which the company cancelled in 1995.

Results, Digest, page 25

Why Spain is smiles better for Robinson

yesterday.

When Michael Rohinson left Liverpool for Spain in 1984, there was little to suggest that the move would be a mark a fundamental change in his life.

Osasuna are one of the lesser lights of the Spanish league. and within two years a knee injury had forced him to retire anyway. However, the move took Robinson to Spain, and 13 years later he is still there. Indeed he is a national figure, thanks to his role as a television commentator in charge of the country's most popular sports tious. Our policy is: who and show, one that has brought

The Day After is a lively, often hilarious, round-up of weekend highlights, with whizzy special effects, affectionate portraits of local clubs and phonein polls for "goal of the day".

"Robin" is now a media celebrity and a year ago he joined the board of Spain's successful Canal Plus cafile network. Not bad for a Leicester lad who started his broadcasting career with 100 Spanish words - "90 of them swear words". He describes his show casually enough, but it is easy to see bow his cheeky-chappy grin and deadpan humour

"The programme's not too what are we going to praise tofoothall's irreverent humour to stuffy Spanish television. day? We don't criticise much, don't want to be cruel. We want to show football's creative side."

revolutionised Spanish sports re-

The formula struck him when RTE, Spanish state television, sent him to cover the World Cup in Italy in 1990. He had been

Elizabeth Nash reports from Madrid on the Englishman revered for his wit

docb's Screensport, but RTE was more interested in his face than his rights and snapped him up as a commentator.

"I'd been a footballer for 16 years but in Italy I saw things I'd never seen before: youngsters from all over the world with painted faces jumping into fountains and sleeping on pavements. the fun side of football. I thought: 'crumbs, this should be on telly'. No one showed that side of it."

His programme became such a hit that he sold up his bouse Windsor and settled in Madrid with his wife Christine, son Liam, now 11, and daughter Aimee, 5. Earlier this year be published a best-selling book, selling rights for Rupert Mur- Las Cosas de Robin (Rohin's called Mr So-and-So". So Spain's

Things), a chatty, witty autobiography and celebration of his adopted country. So little does he miss his home country that his English is peppered with

Spanish expressions. He says his success owes little to being English, hut concedes that "the cradle of football" enjoys respect. "Spaniards respect the nobility of English football, but they don't see English players as particularly artistic or talented, just good professionals."

British miners and engineers hrought the game to Spain in 1898, and early teams were of English expats, including club managers, 'who were always

managers, Italian, Serb or British, are still called el Mister. But beleaguered Bobby Robson of Barcelona gets little mileage out of being British,

Robinson reckons. And it did not save John Tosback, who recently quil Deportivo La Coruña. Bobby Robson hasn't any cachet in Spain. He has a marvellous CV hut that stands for nothing, Englishman or no. Barça are only going to accept him if he wins, otherwise they don't give a monkey's."

As Deportivo slipped to fourth place. Toshack was given no time to build his team.

Spanish passion for football continues to mount. Crowds, generation nostalgic for Johan some 14 per cent greater than the league four years running - six years, and the appetite for "the most beautiful team I've televised football seems insaever seen," Robinson says.

in 1990 things started to change. All over the country in cities that bad always been Madridista, you started seeing kiddies of eight or 10 in Barça shirts. My son is a Barça fan. Before Cruyff, you'd never see a Barça fan outside Catalonia. That's all changed." Barcelona's chairman, Carlos

throughout Spain, Real Madrid

was always the main club. Bul

Nunez, backs Robson, but Nunez himself faces re-election next year, and his 125,000 season-ticket holders will punish him for sacking Cruyff unless Robson delivers the league. Spanish passion for football

tiable. Hence television's ca-"Cruvff had an impact geroess to pay huge sums for



Robinson: National figure rights, enabling clubs to offer fat

cheques to foreign stars. So Robinson is in the right place at the right time. He flashes his wrap-around smile. "I feel I'm locked in a toy factory and left to play on all the Cruyff's dream team that won in Britain, have been soaring for swings and tractors. The 90 minutes, the bits on the pitch, that's just an excuse for all the rest. That's the wonderful thing

tain Mossley, from the North

West Counies League, tomor-

row while Bedlington Terriers

travel to Humberside to take On

North Ferriby, of the Northern

Counties East League. North

Ferriby's attack will be led by

Andy Flounders, the former

Hull City striker who helped

Brigg win the Vase last year. The

only all-southero quarter-final

pairs two Icis League sides:

In the GM Vauxhall Confer-

ence, Halifax have put their for-

mer manager, George Mulhall, plus the former West Bromwich

midfielder Kieran O'Regan in

Northwood and Banstead.

Oldham move for Warnock '

Neil Warnock is expected to be confirmed today as Oldham Athletic's manager until the end of the season. The former Latics forward, Andy Ritchie, is believed to he returning to Boundary Park from Searborough as Warnock's assistant to lead the First Division's bottom

club's battle against relegation. Warnock, sacked by Plymouth Argyle a fortnight ago despite leading them out of the Third Division last season, replaces Graeme Sharp, who resigned earlier this month. In the past, he has also guided Notts County and Huddersfield to

promotion. 'I have offered my services to the end of the season and I hope I can help Oldham and myself," Warnock said yesterday. "I'll do my hest to save 🐌

Celtic have announced the signing of the central defender Enrico Annoni from Roma. He has agreed a three-year and five-month contract. Cultic hope to field the Italian in tomorrow's Bell's Sconish League Premier Division match at Motherwell, but are still waiting for international clearance from the Italian authorities.

Patrick Vieira's form for Arsenal received some reward yesterday when he was called up to the French squad for their friendly against the Netherlands next Wednesday.

Bryan Robson tried to snatch Mark Schwarzer from Everton's grasp last night. The Middlesbrough manager, who changed his initial player-swap hid to straight cash, had talks with Schwarzer after the 24-year-old Bradford City goalkeeper had met officials from Everton, who had agreed a fee of £1.4m with the Valley Parade club. Schwarzer will oive his answer today.

Were Forest robbed in 1

Belgium

Nottingham Forest's 1984 Uefa Cup semi-final defeat to the Belgian club, Anderlecht, is at the centre of a hribery probe.

Two Belgians have been charged with hlackmail in connection with match-fixing allegations. Jean Elst and Rene Van Aeken were released yesterday, with certain conditions attached, pending the police investigation.

The police launched an enquiry into the allegations after Anderlecht said they had been hlackmailed by the two men. One of the pair claimed to have acted as an intermediary to fix the second leg, which Ander-lecht won 3-0 after losing the first leg 2-0. They offered their story, in return for about £215,000, to the Brussels newspaper, Het Nieuwsblad. Anderlechi's general man-

ager, Michel Verschueren, has confirmed that the police have beenasked to investigate the alleged blackmail attempt - hut he denied the central allegation that the club used an in-

termediary to try to "buy" the game. Their secondleg victory, after a

The former Everton striker Daniel Amokachi is in trouble with his club, Besiktas, after they had to hire a private plane to get him back to Istanbul in time for a match.

world

disputed penalty given to them and a disallowed Forest goal. took Anderlecht to the final -

which they lost to Tottenham.

annov me." He had missed a flight in London after heing de-

okachi said. Punishment will

play this weekend, when their

The Nigerian arrived only

layed returning from Nigeria, where he had been visiting his sick mother. It cost Besiktas:

half an bour be-

About half of Bulgaria's 16 First Division clubs will be unable to

fore the match hreak, because of the country's against their city economic crisis. rivals. Fenerbah-"Seven or eight teams have asked us to help them finan-cially." the Bulgarian Football ce, which Besiktas won 1-0. The club have fined Union's president, Ivan Slav-

Amokachi about kov, said. Bulgaria is suffering £5,000 for his late a severe petrol crisis, and the BFU is trying to ensure teams have fuel for their buses so that show but he is refusing to pay. "I don't bethey can get to games. lieve I committed

Netherlands any crime," Am-

Patrick Deckers, a midfielder not be a lesson to me, it will just with the Dutch Second Division cluh, Eindhoven, has heen sacked by his club for dropping his shorts and 'flashing' at fans after being sent off against about £11,000 to hire the plane. Helmond Sport on Monday. "Showing ones' genitals in public is forbidden by law, and

s seen as disturbing public or der," the club said. Rupert Metcalf

Vase future in jeopardy

RUPERT METCALF

With clubs from northero England providing five of the con-testants in this weekend's FA Carlsherg Vase quarter-finals, the Federation Brewery Northern League, in particular, can be proud. It has produced three of the last eight, a fine achievement, but one that may have sad implications for the future

of the Vase. If Guisborough, one of the three Northern League repre-sentatives, can see off Taunton, the Screwfix Direct Westero League leaders, at their King George V ground on Sunday, three of the last four will be from the north.

Last season's final, between Clitheroe from Lancashire and Brigg from Humberside, drew a crowd of just 7,340 to Wembley - a long way below the Vase final record attendance of

Non-League notebook 26,487 for Sudhury Town against Tamworth in 1989.

The Football Association has already taken the controversial decision to ban clubs without floodlights from next season's Vase - a ruling which will lessen the grass-roots charm of the tournament. If this year's final draws another poor crowd, the rumour that the final might he moved away from Wembley could become reality. That would spoil the dreams of all who enter the Vase, in which the appeal of the national stadium. rather than the competition it-

Such fears, however, will not spoil the fun for the Northern League. Its clubs made regular trips to Wembley in the days of the FA Amateur Cup, but last season none made it past the last 32. This term, though, it is all smiles for one of the country's most competitive hut most

that BBC Radio re-discovers

the art of cricket broadcasting?

The BBC pioneered the

ball-by-ball commentary many

years ago and Test Match Spe-

cial became an institution, hut

it has to be said that its appli-

cation to the task has been lack-

ing recently (of our brave lads).

Please - no more Shipping Forecasts, Open University.

chopping the last 15 minutes

before lunch for ephemeral trivia like Parliament etc. Let

us celebrate our return to win-

ning ways by re-instating "ball

by-hall" commentaries for the

whole of the play as per the

original, brilliant idea. GEOFFREY COBB

Prestbury, Cheshire

self, is what matters.

hospitable leagues. Before Guisborough's big

temporary charge of team affairs, following last weekend's departure of John Carroll and his assistant, Billy Rodaway. The England semi-profes-

sional side play their first fixture this season on Tuesday, when they meet the Republic of Ireland at St Patrick's Athletic's

ground in Duhlin. **Pride of Preston**

Preston North End have played place in the history of foothull." a proud part in the origins of the 12 founder members of the

The Museum, paid for largely by the Heritage Lottery Fund. and the first of its kind in the country, will he located at Deepdale and is expected to

opening a club museum, but extended their plans to create a national centre. It will house football memorabilia from all over the world, the centrepiece being the Fifa Museum Collection, built up by Harry Langton. The project will cost an estimated £7m, the Heritage Lottery Fund providing a £5.7m grant

Football League in 1888 and Deepdale is the oldest ground in the Football League. "England is widely recognised as the birthplace of football. The Football Museum will combine the passion for our na-

Bryan Gray, Preston's chairman.

said, "The club was one of the

lection representing every aspect, from fine art to lancines." Keith Cooper, Fifa's Director of Communications, said: "We have been pleased to back Preston's persistent efforts to realise a project which is really

tional sport with a unique col-

long overdue in England." Tom Finney, Preston's president whose own place in football history is secure, was enthusiastic. "It is fantastic to have got the funding," he said. "To have the Fifa Collection is

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0930-567 OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0800 616029 (non calls cost 50p per minote. Winner picked at random after lines close 25th February 198 Usted Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Endor's decision is final.

Women at Twickenham

Sir: What "hallowed turf"? I would like to inform Gtenn Moore ("Twickenham's hallowed turf to resound to football boots" 18 February) that Twickenham

has indeed been used for something "other than rugby union".

As a schoolgirl in Twickenham during the war, our own playing field having heen arved up for the erection of air raid shelters. I used to cross the tracks regularly to the rugby union ground to play hockey.

It has therefore already been

used for an elegant game played by ladies. AUDREY ALLEN Hereford 19 Fehruary

Skill takes a knock

Sir: From Glenn Moore's, Mike

Rowbottom's and Ken Jones'

analysis of the England/Italy 13 February

Tissier took to the field for the home side. The tradition of knocking skill players lives on. You get magic from skill play-ers, not workhorses. Ken Jones' mnddled mind produced this

game you could easily be forgiven for thinking that only Matt Le

gem: "England could not be faulted for their commitment in the second half, but, when it came to technical accomplishment they were inferior to the opposition." So what do Messers Moore, Rowbottom and Jones advocate? Drop Le Tissier. He's had his day. Let him join the long line of talent that England have lost over the decades and foreign managers would have given half their squads for. R W. BAYLEY

Hampton

Fuss over Guscott

sports letters

Sir: In Ireland we used to believe that we had a monopoly on committing hari-kiri at the international rugby selection table. We were wrong. The English rugby selectors, by their continuing to ignore the sublime skills of Jeremy Guscott in favour of the out-of-his class Philip de Glanville, provide proof that the JOHN O'SHÉA,

I7 February Broadside.for broadcasting

Monkstown, Ireland

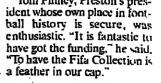
18 February Letters should be marked For publication" and should contain daytime and evening phone numbers. They should be sent Sir: Now that our heave lads in to Sports Editor, The Indepen New Zealand have re-discovdent, I Canada Square, London ered the art of winning Test E14 5DL. They may be short matches, is it too much to ask ened for reasons of space.

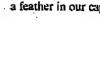
professional game, and yesterday it was announced that they have succeeded in their bid to house the National Football

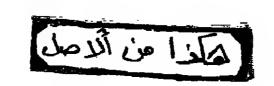
open next year. Preston originally intended

and the remainder coming from

national and local husinesses. "Preston occupies a special







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England captain's Lions fury

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

Fran Cotton must be wondering whether it might be easier to dust off his boots and take oo the Springboks himself. When he agreed to manage the Lions in South Africa this summer, the former England prop was relishing the prospect of a scrap or two along the way - he was nev-er one to shirk a fight, after all but he probably considered himself safe from the flak until his arrival in Johannesburg.

Wrong. Six days after re-ceiving an earful from Will Carling on the subject of the Li-ons tour - the eminent Harlequin's anger at being accused by the manager of using the captaincy as a bargaining tool oscillated between wrath and rage - Cotton yesterday ran into another fusiliade from Phil de Glanville, Carling's fellow England centre and successor as nadonal skipper.

De Glanville, left out of Cot-

ton's preliminary squad of 62, fired his bullets in the hallowed surrounding of the Cambridge Union, no less. "It is no great secret that I do not get on with Fran Cotton," he told a group of students attending the latest in a series of saddresses by leading British sportsmen. "When I was one of the England players' representatives during dif-ficult early negotiations with the Rugby Football Union this season, I had some interesting discussions with him and, when he was subsequently appointed Li-ons manager, I thought it unlikely that I would be going to South Africa. International selection is a personal thing."

land first-choices.

weekend, De Glanville and

on Saturday week. Guscott re-

Austin Healey, the Leicester

name an unchanged team was

hardly earth-shattering. Indeed,

Guscon's brilliance in setting up

two late tries for Tony Uoder-

wood might even have con-

firmed the England coach in a

belief that his old Bath protégé

eye at Lansdowne Road.

Giveo that De Glanville had Warm already signalled his displeasure at the entire concept of a preliminary squad, the purpose of which has never been entirely clear, it can be assumed that he has oow slammed the Lions door firmly in his own face. Cotton, who was attending meetings an injunctioo: in London yesterday and was __ The lockless Scott Hastings,

would probably pick himself at side and A team, has had to centre before either of the Eng-Much to the muted disaping his knee in practice. pointment of those who saw Je-remy Guscott confirm his status ternational flanker, has sev-Ian Smith, the Scottish in-

as a world-class performer in the final three minutes of the victory over Ireland in Duhlin last Carling will still be first choiccs when England take on France in a climactic Five Nations shoot-out at Twickenham



In defence of making con-sistency his chief virtue, Rowell will point to England's 1995 Grand Slam campaign, when the same 15 served in all four matches. It was a similar story in 1991, when England also went through the Five Nations unbeaten. In the other Grand Slam year of the decade, 1992, they made only one change, bringing in Dean Richards for Tim Rodber for the second half of the championship.

ers, not 21.

There are, however, changes to the A side for the second string international with France tomorrow week. The Bath prop, Kevin Yates, and the Gloucester lock, Dave Sims, are restored to the tight five while Chris Sheasby of Wasps returns to the back row. They replace Rob Hardwick, John Fowler and Martin Corry respectively. Richard Cockerill of Leices-

ter replaces his club-mate, Dorian West, at booker after filling in for Phil Greening on the se-nior hench in Dublin. At halfback, Kyran Bracken and Alex King return from injury for the Gloucester pairing of Scott Bentoo and Mark Mapletoft.

Several Welsh rugby clubs are considering taking the Welsh Rugby Union to court if the top division of the National League is reduced from 12 to eight teams oext season.

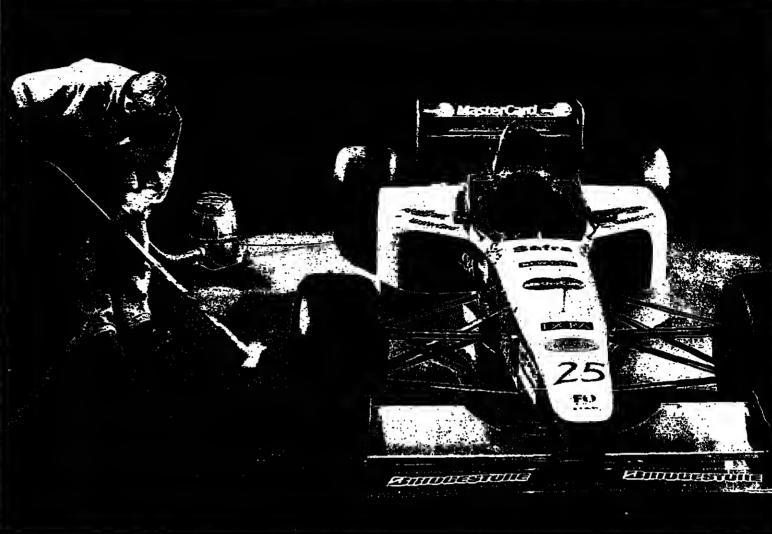
Several clubs in the relegation zone as well as Division Two's leading teams are up in arms. Llandovery are to seek compensation of at least £25,000 if they cannot be promoted, Aberavon have threatened a writ and Treorchy are ready to take out

drop out of the squad for the World Cup Sevens after injur-

ered ties with Gloucester, his home-town club, and agreed terms with Second Division

terms with Second Division Moseley yesterday.

ENGLAND (v France, Five Nations' Champton-step, Twickenhaus, 2 March): T Stimpson (Flowcostle); J Steightfohme (Bath), W Carling (Steightfohme (Bath), W Carling (Steightfohme (Bath), ENGLAND, T Underwood (Flowcostle); P Grayeon (Northampton), A Gomen-sell (Wespe); E Rouettes (Indicate), M Region (Brasio), J Leonard (Farkeyma), M Johancoa Engreser), a Steme (Flosto), L Dellagio (Waspo), T Rodber (Porthampton), R Hill (Saracerd), Replacements J Guecott (Bath), M Cett (Bath), A Healey (Leicester), B Carlior (Richmon). FRANCE SQUAD: Buoks: A Aconceberry turns to the hench, as does scrum-half who also caught the P Greening (Glouceter), B Clasies Februard,
FRANCE SQUADE Besick: G Accesserry
(Begléz-Boxdesud, D Atschages (Paul, P
Carrigonnesus (Brive), S Blue (Bouggiri-JalBot), C Lammison Brite), L Lefammad (Bougoir), A Pennard (Brive), J-L Sadowary
(Colomiso), D Vendititi (Brive), U Wolta (Dan,
Forwards: A Bornazd (Agon), C Confiano
(Toutouse), R Castel (Bébers), Most Mano
(Agord, M de Rougessons (Roulon), J-L Jordens (Toutouse), O Megire (Dac, D Marke
(Réconfiarand), M Michel (Toutouse), F Pelous
(Day, F Tournaire (Narbonne). Jnck Rowell's decision to



Lola aiming high in the fast lane

mula One. I think Formula One

Motor racing

DERICK ALLSOP

He stepped, almost sheepishly, on to the stage, looking more like a benign grandfather than a Formula One protagonist, and declared his intention to win the World Championship within four years. Even given motor racing's

propensity to lay oo the sales pitch, that rates as a fairly bold pledge. This team boss has had, in differing guises, a mumber of earlier shots at Grand Prix racing, the more recent eoding in dismal failure. His latest car was completed at 2 o'clock yesterday morning and, a week from now, after just a couple of days' testing, it will be bound for Anstraha and the opening race of

force behind this venture is a bearded, bespectacled figure of 68. The alternative of carpet slippers and comfortable armchair is patently repugnant to Eric Broadley. "If I wasn't mo-tor racing I'd be sailboat racing." he said, disarmingly. He is not likely to have much

time to indulge himself in his other passion this year. While his 250-strong workforce, at Huntingdon, continues to supply chassis for IndyCars, Indy Lights and Formula 3000 teams, the company is now mounting its first sole assault on racing's premier category. A Lola engine will eventually replace the Ford unit currently powering the car. Broadley said: "The company's ready. It's the right time for us. Formula One is already huge,

has been a bit predictable and now we are seeing new teams, like ourselves and Stewart, and Bridgestone Tyres, coming in." Despite a race win with Honda, in 1967, Formula One re-

mains the unconquered peak on Broadley's horizon. He founded the company 39 years ago, which means, after Ferrari, Lola will be the longest established racing team in this season's World Championship. Five Indy-Car championships and three victories in the Indianapolis 500 testify to the experience and expertise he has developed within the company, Two of his more celebrated old boys are Patrick Head and John Barnard.

But can he genuinely expect to scale the heights this time? ider Broadlev

"Customer teams are a way of life in IndyCars but in Formula One the teams are integrated," he said. "You can't compete in Formula One in the way we attempted with Scuderia Italia in 1993 and we decided then that we would not come in again un-

less we did so with our own team. "I like challenges and I'm excited by this one, but what I am doing is not for my own satisfaction. We have a company, The thing has a life of its own and we are attempting to steer this large animal. What I am do-ing is right for the company.
"We're coming in to make a

serious attempt on the World Championship, not this year, or oext, but between now and our achieving that objective we hope to win a few points." who discourages

the basics of the car that was unveiled in London yesterday. He has a four-year sponsorship deal with Mastercard and two drivers of no mean ability in the Italian, Vincenzo Sospiri, and Brazil's Ricardo Rosset.

Broadley is confident his dri-vers will qualify for the races and that building his own engine will not stretch the company too far. He said: "I doo't helieve it costs \$100m to produce an engine and you're not going to win in Formula One without a super engine. If we do n good job for the drivers, they will do a good job for us."

Some say it is too late for Broadley hut, of course, he does not agree. 'I suppose we probably should have done this 20 years ago," he conceded. "But we did a lot of other dimension and we need to be avuncular dreamer; he main- the "chief designer" syndrome stead and we're still here."

Argument adjourns Senna hearing

ANDREW GUMBEL reports from Rome

The trial of Frank Williams and five other defendants uoder fire for the death of Ayrion Senna at Imola in 1994 got off to the slowest possible start yesterday, as the bearing in an Italian court was adjourned for eight days to consider an ap-plication by the defence to have charges against two of the accused dropped on technical

The makeshift court in Imola may have been besieved by journalists and expectations of shock revelations high. but the proceedings were remarkably mundane. As ex-pected, only one of the defeodants, the managing director of the company that runs the Imola race track, Federico Bendinclli, was in court for the trial opening.

Defence lawyers immediately took up the argument that the case against two of the defendants, the race director Roland Britynseracde and the Williams team technician Adrian Newey, should be dropped immediately on the grounds that they were not properly informed, according to Italian law, of the investigation in progress against them.

As often happens in Italian trials, the court quickly adjourned for several days in this case, until 28 February to consider the defence's objections. There was no glimpse of the special CD-ROM prepared for the trial which shows a simulated 3-D version of the Senna crash based on all available television footage.

Nor was there any hint of how the Williams' team will set about their defence. The whole trial was meanwhile decried as a "cynical and stupid exercise" by Niki Lau-da, who coted that the criminal proceedings weot against the wishes of Senna's own "I hope the court takes ioto

account the risks that we drivers undertake of our own free will," Lauda told the Austrian oewspaper, Neue Aron Zeitung.

Christie stays the distance

With his 37th birthday in sight, Linford Christie continues to thrive on competition. The 1992 Olympic gold medallist easily beat his training partner and protégé, Darren Campbell, in the 100 metres at the Mel-

bourne Grand Prix yesterday. Christie did just enough to win in 10.20sec, with Campbell finishing in 10.26 and the Australian, Steve Brimacombe, third in 10.42. Tony Jarrett was beaten in the 110m hurdles by the experienced American, Jack Pierce, finishing in 13.62sec be-hind Pierce's 13.54.

At the same meeting, Emma George, Australia's pole vault world record-holder, broke her own record, jumping 4.55 me-tres to better the 4.50 she jumped earlier this month. The former trapeze artist has only been competing in this event for two years.

Reebok yesterday announced a four-year sponsorship deal with the British Athletics Federation worth around £1m s year. The deal, which has been known about for some weeks, is for kit and footwear for British teams. Ben Johnson's attempts to

race competitively again were know if there is any probabilithe way for dismissed as "strange" by the ty of him being reinstated."

International Amateur Athletic Federation yesterday. The 35-year-old Canadian

sprinter, banned for life after a second positive drug test in 1993, was said by his manager Morris Chrobotek to have made s request for reinstatement, but an IAAF spokesman, Giorgio Reineri, said: "We have had an exchange of papers but we haven't received any official request from the Canadian Federation.

"Ben Johnson did not appeal wheo he was banned for life three years ago. It's a little strange that three years on he suddenly wants to do so. I don't

Ebdon holds off O'Sullivan

Snooker

Peter Ebdon had to soak up very little pressure yesterday when he decisively defeated Ronnie O'Sullivan 5-1 to reach the semi-finals of the International Open at Aberdeen. O'Sullivan scored only 48

points in the opening four frames and won his only frame with a break of 98 in the fifth. He might have closed the gap still further in the sixth but, after reaching 42, he played a bad positional shot which paved the way for Ebdon's match-

Goulding ban eased Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

The St Helens captain, Bohbie Goulding, has had his eight-

match suspension reduced to six on sppeal, but that has not mollified his club. Goulding was given one of the heaviest sentences of recent

years after being sent off for a high tackle oo the Wigan prop, Neil Cowie, in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup de between the two sides earlier this month.

His appeal yesterday was first time the organisation has become involved in a discipli- of worse tackles," he said.

nary case - the Rugby League Professional Players' Associa-tion. Both argued that the suspension was excessive.

The reduction in his ban means he will still be ruled out of Saints' campaign to retain the Cup until the final, should they reach it. He will, however, be available for two extra rounds of Super League.

That did not placate the St Helens chairman, Eric Ashton, who said that he still regarded

the senteoce as "disgusting".

He complained that the ban was well above the current avbacked by his club and - in the erage for similar offences. "I've studied videos and I've seen a lot

SPORTING DIGEST

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of football clubs in Russia's Premier League that have been ordered to play their first two home games of the 1977 season at neutral venues as a penalty for falling to instal under pitch heating.

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Attalectics

Men. DOMNE CRIMID PROC Questiality Solectaric

Menc. 100m; 1.1. Cristole (GB) 10.20esc; 2.0

Compdell (GB) 10.20; 3.5 Shrimscombe (Aus)
10.42, 200m; 1.9 Savera (Bel) 20.64; 2.P. Johnson (Aus) 20.65; 3.0 Cometizon (AV) 20.98,
400m; 1.5 Haugiston (Jenn) 46,71; 2.0 Stack
(Aus) 48.01. Riker: 1.E. Menr. (Ben) 3:354,00; 2.8 Holmon (MS) 3:544,24, 5,000m; 1.P. Babo (Ven)
13:33,90; 2.1 Paynter (Aus) 13:35,33 11.0m
handles: 1.3 Pierce (MS) 13:54; 2.7 Levest (MS)
13:62; 3.K Vierder-Rapy (Aus) 13:88, 400m handles: 1.7 Protos (MS) 13:58, 42:10 m
handles: 1.8 Robinson (Aus) 48,91; 2.E Thomsel
(US) 48,94; 3.C Dayle (US) 49,71. Righ Jenup
1.1 Forsyth (Aus) 2.30m; 2.G Howert (M2) 2.19,
Janelles 1.R Hochtto (Ger) 80.46; 2.4 Currey (Aus)
7.9.64). Pole wasti 2.0 Northcy (Build 5.00; 2.5

Huthren (US) 5.47; 2.V Cristogetor (Rul 5.00; 2.5

Huthren (US) 5.47; 2.V Cristogetor (Rul 5.20; 2.4;
5.000m; 1.5 O'Sullian (PI) 15:78, 2.K Anderson (Aus) 15:59,500m; (PI) 15:90,2.X (Aus)
2.500m; 1.5 O'Sullian (PI) 15:17, 2.K (Anderson (Aus) 16:25,16. Pole went 1.6 George
(Aus) 4.56 Footid record; 2.M Harmigon (PD) 3.70.

SNOW REPORT - in association with Thomas Cook Ski Direct

Snow reports

ANDORRA

AUSTRIA

CANADA

FRANCE

ITALY

SWEDEN

Athletics

Basketbal Patiento Libra 100 Indiana 87; Charlotte 123 Phonix 115; Detroit 100 Washington 85; Orlando SF Portiand 84; Loureto 125 San Amono 92; Mirriesota 84 Vancouver 73; Goldan State 112 Boston 201; Cleveland 103 LA Lei-ers 84.

Gerry Penalosa, of the Philippinas, won the World Boding Council super-fly-weight title when he outported the hold-er, Hiroshi Kawashima of Japan,

Football Joe McGrath has been appointed coach of the New Zealand national team. Mc-Grath, a former Republic of Ireland Un-

Area Last Lw Upp open enow cm cm

England have been drawn against the holders, Norway, and the European champions, Germany, in the qualifying competition, for the third women's World Cup in the United States in 1999. Six European countries will qualify over the next two years, with England's group completed by the Netherlands. England will prepare for the qualifiers by playing Germany at Preston on Thursday 27 February, 1999 WOMEN'S WORLD Clife European qualifying draws Group Ome: Sweden, Spein, Losland, Utraine, Group Peac, Laby, Friend, France, Switzerland, Group Tavest Norway, Germany, England, Netherlands, Group Februar, Russia, Derman, Portugal, Belgium, Group Februar, Carlon, Carlon, Republic, Scotland, Lutumra, Group Str. Belgium, Group, Gregos, Yugostevia, Budgrin, Georgia, Group Eight: Insail, Hungary, Romanie, Slovekia, Bosnia.

Bossia.
Phillipe Troussier, a Frenchman who was formerly coach of the lvory Coast, was yesterday named as Nigaria's new national team coach. His predecessor, Amodu Shaibu, was sacked last month for "gross misconduct" and "insubordination". Troussier, nicknamed the "White Wizard", is currently coach of the Moroccan First Division club FUS Rabar.

The Football Trust yesterday launched a scheme to improve the facilities for disabled football supporters. In an in-tiative backed by the government, the

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Di-vision; Nartwich v Vaustell GM (7.45). vision: Nertwich v Vaudall GM (7-40).
UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Ol-vision: Hassocks v Burgess Hill.
LEAGUE OF WALES: Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff v Ton Pentre.
HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Shelbourne v Bohemans (7-45).

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Newcastle Eagles v London Towers (7.30); Sheffeld Sherks v Leop-ards (7.30).

Other sports **SADMINITON:** Friends Provident Grand Stem (Mansfeld). SNOOKER: International Open (Aberdet

Trust will survey disabled facilities at all 92 English league grounds as well as the Scottish Premier Division.

arranged Sichare: Tue 8 Apr: York v Peterborough.
FRANCE SQUAD (Friendly v Netherlands,
Paris, Wechneeday's Goestmapers: Berthez
(Moraco). Larrae (Paris St-Germair). Desouders: Blace (Baccalons). Desemby (Miler).
Candels (Rome). Lizuzzes (Arbeite Sibao).
Stouders: Blace (Baccalons). Desemby (Miler).
Candels (Rome). Lizuzzes (Arbeite Sibao).
Stouders: Blace (Baccalons). Desemby (Miler).
Leigh (both Sampoton). N'Easty (PSG).
Miler
(Notice). Desemby (Miler). Lobo (PSG).
Peres (Metz).
WEDNESDAY'S LATE REBULTS: FA Carting
Presidensity: Asserted 1. Manchesser United
2; Asson Visa 2 Countries Footbal Lasges Under 21. Al 1 Newton 62. (at Stadio Loig Farrate, Geroal). Or Manthes Lengus Southers
Devision: Derdord 1. Witney 2. ListBond
Lengus Cop fourth rotate Boston Lingus Colengus Cap fourth rotate Boston Lingus CoLengus Costonados Longus Cog: Winbiedon 1. AFG Bournemouth 1; Milevoli 2.
Wigited O. Poutes Longus Second Division:
Scuntinope O Bury C. A Youth Cap Fourth

2. Fassehurgh 3 Lossiemouth 1. Avan Insurance Combination League Capt Winheldon 1 AFC Bournamouth 1; Mishwid 2 Watford 0, Ponties Laugue Second Division: Scurthorpe 0 Bury 0. FA Youth Cup Fourth nestud: Nottingham Forest D Blackburn Revers 3. International Friendline (Atlane); Greace 0 Portugit 0, Herendies (Atlane); Greace 0 Portugit 0, Herendies (Atlane); Greace 0 Portugit 0, Herendies (Atlane); Greace 12, 90, Soles 45, Drummond 50, Assist 57; (Freene, Califfe Meston 1 (Hermoello 21) Guntarmals 1 (Peter 40); Spraish League; Hermales 1 (Peter 40); Spraish League; Hermales 1 (Peter 40); Spraish League; Hermales 1 (Peter 40); Spraish 1. Cardia 3; Atlatica Madrid 2 Logorhes 0; Spranyol 4 Africate Bibos 2; Rayo Valecanto 1 Resil Madrid 0; Zaragioza 5 Sporting Gyon 0; Racing Canting Common Capt Gyenter Haust Kertsutte 2 (Puter 10); Rayon Munici 0, Douts Cup Tahird numbic 2 (Puter 10); Greated 2, Primady; Milan 2 (Puter 9, 62); Cheissa 0.

ALFRED DUNHILL SOUTH AFRICAN PEA CHAMPTONESHIP (Johannesburg) Leading first-covared ecotex (GB or ist unders stated): G4 T Gogole (Ger), G5 M Scarps (ID, R Goosen (SA), G6 A MeLam (SA), B May (US), J Nei-son (SA), M Muricss (SA), M Archer, N Fasch (Saue), G7 N Price (Zive), G Enreicon, K To-mon (Jepan), R McCerm (US), R Muritz (Nect), A Rossoff (SA), G Carix, G6 C Karron (SA), M Argiert (Swe), N ven Remburg (SA), D Botos (SA), T Decks (Nearth, S Webbars, C Whaslaw (SA), S Vaughan (SA), W Mebbars, C Whaslaw (SA), S Vaughan (SA), W Mebbars, C Mradey (SA), G9 N venhootegem (Be), G Reat (SA), M Goggin (Sau), F Quinn Art (US), J Mel-lor, H Baleoch (SA), M McNaty (Zm), D Terblanche (SA), J Nagson (SA), G Sheny, S Dt (US), H Welton (SA), W Dram (SA), R Rescher (SA), C Rocca (D), D Frost (SA), F Alem (SA), A Colart, P Harrington, N Fanzanger-on (Zm), P Laweis, S Luccin (SA), M Metcis-re, I Gantol (SG), A Cruse (SA), C Vents C C-Cusar (Fr), 70 S Dahesis (SA), V Prilipps, J Hobday (SA), R Welsons (SA), T Johnson (Zm), Marinego (SA), D Chopra (Swe), R Kuplen (SA), A Beet, D van Staden (SA), S Pappes (SA), D Tapping.

NHL: Detroit 4 Calgary 0; NY Rangers 1 New Jersey 1 (ot): Herdord 2 Philadelphia 2 (ot); Edmorton 6 Toronto 5.

Stig Blomqvist, of Sweden, yesterday committed himself to drive for Skoda committed himself to drive for Skoda in this year's RAC British Rally Cham-pionship. The 50-year-old former world champion won the British title in 1983 and last November finished third in a Skoda in the RAC Rally. He will race in four of the six scheduled sooning rounds of the champiocethin.

Rugby League The Bradford Bulls' Great Britain full-back, Stuart Spuce, is doubtful for to-morrow's Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie at the London Broncos because of a chest infection. The former Test hooker, Martin Dermott

The former Test hooker, Moran Dermott, signed from Wigan this summer, will make his competitive dabut for Warnington in their tie against Sheffield Eagles on Sunday. He has recovered from injury and replaces the teenager, Anthony Murray.

The Second Division club York has been put up for sale for £1. The sale of club was advertised in yesterday's Financial Times and the club director, John Stablet, confirmed the asking price and stated the sale was to sefeguard York's future. York were knocked out of the Challenge Cup by the ameticurs Dudley Hill last month and have been strugging financially for several seasons. Rugby Union

Ruggby Union

ENGLAND A tr Franch A, Leicester, 26 Februssy, 8.0; H Beal (Northempton); D Luger (Farleques), N Greensbock (Wagas), W Greensbock (Wagas), M Greensbock (Wagas), M Greensbock (Wagas), A Adebuyo (Sarl); A King (Meng.), K Bracken (Sarapare); K Yates (Barr), R Coclearly (Leoceter, J Maleitt (Barth, G Archer (Nowcastle), D Sims (Gloucester), C Sheasby (Meg.), D Sims (Gloucester), T Sheasby (Meg.), A Digmon (Sarapare), N Back (Leoceter), J Maleitter (Colomy), M Mapletoft (Gloucester), M Allen (Northempton), D West (Lacester), M Allen (Northempton), D West (Lacester), M Fedwick (Colomy), M Corry (Bristo).

SCOTLAND SQUAD (for Ringby Warld Cap Sevens in Hong Kong); N Broughdos (Mercel), C Retiner (Wattonians), D Les (Wattonians), D Chesther (Wattonians), D Les (Wattonians), N Penny YidatSoriers), C Mether (Wattonians), S Michol (Meippes), N Penny YidatSoriers), M Wallace (Gaegow Hrift), (Manager D Morgan, coach A Kerr),

Snooker MTERNATIONAL OPEN (Abardeen) Quarter-finals: 7 Drago (Malta) bt J Parrott (Engl 5-3; P Ebdon (Engl bt R O'Sullivan (Engl 5-1; J Heg-gris (Sco) bt A McManus (Sco) 5-3.

TOMORIES
ST JULE MENTS TOURNAMENT (Managhia, Tart)
Singles, second rounds G Nuerton (Br) by A Agosof (US) 6-2 6-4; T Martin (US) by B Shelton (US)
6-6 6-3; P Henrium (Nett) by J Gernelstob (US)
6-6 6-3; P Reneberg (US) by J A Victor (Sp) 63 6-2; B Sergoun (Arm) by A O'Bren (US) 6-4
6-3; C Roundryf (US) by S Desper (Aus) 4-6 62 6-1; P Sporterian (Save) by R Providing (Aus)
6-4 6-3; G Round (Fr) by M Woodfords (Aus) 75-7; 6-4; J Turrango (US) by V Sportin (US)
6-4 6-3; S Round (Fr) by M Woodfords (Aus) 75-7; 6-4; J Turrango (US) by V Sportin (US)
6-4 6-3; G Round (Fr) by M Noodfords (Aus) 76-4. S Stowen (VS) by N I specify (Eu) 7-6-6-4.
A Roduleson (Ger) by J Stownheigh (Mus) 6-3 62. Doubles, second rounds E Ferrera (SA) and
P Cauthenth (US) by K Homest and D Sendale (US)
6-4 7-6 6-4; S Hwygarth (SA) and S Schalen
March by T Carbonals and Florig (Sp) 7-6 7-6.
NA WOMEN'S GLASSIG (Middelsons City) Sin-Olech tx T Corbonië end F Rog (Sp) 7-6-7-6.
NGA WDMEN'S CLASSIC (Oldebonne City) Singian, first round: L Lee (US) bt K Radiod (Aus)
6-3-6-2. Secpan round: S Cack (US) bt M Williamser (Sp) 6-4-6-5: T Luberi (B) tx M Gydbonekei (Po) 6-1-7-5: L Devempor (US) bt C Cristee
Rhor) 6-2-7: A Coetace (SA) bt T Mellen (US)
6-1-6-0. Decebles, second nound: A Fizzier and
K Po (US) tx A Decession-Bellet (P) and R Singson (Can) 6-4-6-3: P Hy Boules: (Con) and K Recherchi (Aus) 6-1. Hollen (US)
6-4-6-4: E Helseni (US) and V Laise (US) bt E Boulehowski (Us) and M Drake (Can) 6-3-6-3.

LTA MEN'S MODOR SATELLITE (Ensisteent) Broukrovers (Un) and in Drahe (Can) 6.3 6.3.

LTA MEN'S INDOOR SATELITE (Enstituerray)
Singles, second round A Richardson (GB) bt
3. Covern (GB) 6-2 7-6.1. Authorn (GB) bt M
Whitsperber (Gan) 6-7 6-1.6-2: C Beacher (GB)
bt J Fox (GB) 7-6 6-4; T Neglot (Fin) bt C Neggard (SA) 6-20-8 6-4; M Suding (Gwel) bt (Gaudi (I) 6-3 6-4; I I-talycher (Rai) bt J Deigand
(GB) 3-6 6-4; V Lukto (Fin) bt A Musi (CRep) 6-2 7-5; D Ven Uffieler (Ba) bt M Bertokni 60 7-6 6-4.

LTA WOMEN'S CHALLENGER EVENT (Radbridge) Singles, quarter-deute: S-A Sadad (GB)
bt D Usgra (Un) 6-1 7-6; E Startings (Un) bt
C Taylor (GB) 3-6 6-1 6-2; M Sanchez Lorenco
(Spi bt 1 Postabel (Ba) 6-1 5-7 6-4; N Dechy
(Fr) bt P Gesper (Hung) 6-2 6-2.

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw data: 19/2/97. The winning numbers: 8, 11, 19, 36, 39, 41. Bonus number: 13. Total Sales: £28,494,520. Prize Fund: £15,896,158 (45% of ticket sales plus £3,073,824 Superdraw funding).

CATEGORY	NO DE WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL SACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	. 1	£7,000,000	£7.000.000
Match 5 plus Donus ball	14	£8a.293	£1,203,102
Maich 5	568	£1,329	£754,272
Match 4	30,138	£55	£1,660,340
Match 3	527,121	£10	£5,271.810
TOTALS	557,652		£15.325,124
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team on the grid, page 25



Schmeichel faces racist abuse charge

Football

ROB KING

Peter Schmeichel could be-come the first footballer to face criminal charges for alleged racist abuse as his feud with Ian Wright burst back into life.

While everyone expected the Arsenal striker to be charged with misconduct by the Football Asociation for his behaviour at Highbury on Wednesday night, it was the Manchester United Wright's complaint that he

subjected him in racial abuse during last November's Pre-miership game at Old Trafford had not, as everyone believed. been quietly shelved.

Instead, the police have been carrying out an extensive investigation and papers have now heen lodged with the Crown Prosecution Service.

There were no close witnesses to the alleged incident.

goalkeeper who found himself in deeper trouble. hut several lip-readers claimed that television pictures showed the Danish international swearing at Wright and, if the CPS decides that evidence is strong enough, Schmeichel will find himself in a unique test case.

There has been a long-running police investigation into the original incident at Old Trafford," Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said. "As a result of police inquiries into the alleged racist remarks a report has been compiled and is currently being considered by the Crown Prosecution Service." It would be the third time that United players have found themselves in a criminal court. Eric Cantona assaulted a Palace fan with his famous kung-fu leap two years ago. while Paul Ince was acquitted for his part in the

same incident. Schmeichel could also find himself in trouble with the FA for the tunnel scuffle with Wright after Arsenal's 2-1 defeat on Wednesday.

Arsenal believe he provoked Wright, who needed restraining by three policemen and the physiotherapist, Gary Lewin. Inquiries were continuing yesterday to see if there may have been a racist element to the in-

Schmeichel was incensed by Wright's reckless, two-footed lunge which has left him with a badly-bruised ankle and doubtful for tomorrow's game at Chelsea. The keeper was seen wagging his finger at Wright.

Arsenal, conscious of the hnt they will not make any bad blood between the pair, had taken precautions to isolate Wright as he came off, crowding the tunnel area with police and stewards. But United appeared to leave their goalreeper to his own devices and he seemed to be involved in exchanges all the way down the

crowded Highbury pitch exit. Significantly, the FA bas received an independent report on what happened from the match observer, Kelvin Morton,

comment or decision until the match referee, Martin Bodenham, submits his summary.

He did not see the scuffles but the police officers involved gave him a full account and he has indicated that it will feature

prominently in his report. Indications are that Wright. who collected a booking which will already ensure another two-match ban, will certainly face a misconduct charge. Arsenal's manager, Arsenc

Manchester United and Rangers are rivals in pursuit of

the £5m-rated Dutch defender,

Jaap Stam. United scouts and

the Rangers assistant manager. Archie Knox, watched the PSV

Eindhoven player at the week-end and United have already had an initial offer for the 24-

Dutch sources said last night

that officials from the Prem-

iership leaders were talking with Stam's representatives in

London in midweek. Stam is the right age for both United and

Rangers, who are looking to re-

place Gary Pallister and

Richard Gough respectively. Alex Ferguson, the United

manager, has attempted to sign

Barcelona's Miguel Angel Nadal and Real Betis's Rober-

Blackburn are likely to pa-

rade their new signing, the

Danish international striker

Per Pedersen, in the game at

Liverpool tomorrow. Rovers

Joe Royle has been disciplined

by the Foothall Association for

calling the referee David Eller-

ay a pterodactyl. The prehistoric

reference landed the Everton

manager a disrepute charge at

the FA yesterday, writes Alan

Elleray, a housemaster at

Harrow School, knew exactly

what Royle meant when he

called him the name after the

Blackburn game following the

sending off of striker Duncan Ferguson. Pterodactyls were

angular-beaded dinosaurs, half-

Elleray took the comparison

personally and Royle was found

guilty of insulting language by the FA hearing. He was ordered

bird and half-beast.

agreed a fee of £2.5m for the 28- quired by Brazil.

Royle's historic charge

to Rios without success.

year-old rejected.

ALAN NIXON

Wenger, defended Wright on the night and refused to commen further vesterday, although baving reviewed television pictures of the tackle, following through on the goalkeeper though whistled offside, Wenger may change his mind.

However, with Arsenal five points behind and a game worse off than the leaders. United. Wenger can ill afford to suspend Wright, who is also one of the cluh's most popular players.

year-old from Odense, and the player has now settled person-Yesterday, Blackburn turned

down a request from their for-

mer manager Ray Harford.

who is now in charge at West

Bromwich, to take the winger Stuart Ripley on loan, because

pected to return to the Totten-

ham side for Monday's game at

West Ham, The England strik-

er scored both goals in the re-serve team's 2-0 win over

Stockport's postponed Coca-Cola Cup semi-final first leg tie

against Middlesbrough has

been re-arranged for next

Wednesday at Edgeley Park. Middlesbrough's Premiership fixture against Manchester

United, due to take place at Old Trafford the same night, has

been postponed, as has Stock-

port's Auto Windscreens Shield

northern semi-final against

Crewe, due to be played next Tuesday, Middlesbrough will

be without Juninho, who is re-

referee

Elleray

Elleray claimed that Royle

Royle was furious. As he

also swore at him, but the man-

ager said he only used the word

pointed out, the Arsenal strik-

er Ian Wright has got away

with calling a referee a Mup-

(right) and a

pterodactyl

"pterodactyl".

David

Brentford on Wednesday.

the player is not fully fit. Teddy Sheringham is ex-

Rangers rival

United for Stam

Tufnell is talk of the town again

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Christchurch New Zealand 222-6 England 226-6 England win by four wickets

It may not have pleased the purists, but New Zealand cricket's attempt to merge the one-day game with rock 'n' roll was certainly to the liking of Philip Tufnell. The left-arm spinner, whose chosen song for the se-ries was Oasis's "Cigarettes and Alcohol," took a career-best 4 for 22 as England recorded their first overseas one-day win against a Test-playing nation since beating South Africa in

Bloemfontein. 13 matches ago. Ironically, Tufnell, who also won his first man of the match award as England went 1-0 up in the five-match series, was not expected to play, and only a late decision by captain Micbael Atherton - after he had seen the condition of the pitch - gave the spinner his first limited-over

run-out in over two years. It has been a trying 48 hours for Tufnell, not least because of the not so mysterious posters that have suddenly sprung up around Christchurch.

The posters which read -"Phil Tufnell must agree that Bardellis is Christchuch's best joint" - are the talk of the town, though their hlatant appearance does tend to lend credibility to the claim that the whole thing was just a crude publicity sturt, timed to coincide with England winning the Test series. "See you down there." quipped Tufnell to assembled journalists who attended a terse

post-match press conference. Unsurprising then, that he was the object of the crowd's attention - most of it pucile long before he got the ball in his hand. It was a situation the old Tufnell would probably not

No 3228, Friday 21st Februar

have handled at all well, and although the latest version is perhaps not the exciting bowler of old, be is more imperturbable

than he used to be. He even made the grand gesture of doffing his cap at the end of bis spell. a touch the large, partisan crowd at Lan-

caster Gate greatly appreciated. "I thought he coped with it well," Atherton said, "I had a chat with him heforehand and told him to be strong. He has not played many one-day internationals recently and bis performance was exceptional."

In fact, he did not come on until the 20th over, when the score was on 87 for 1. But if his introduction was delayed, his impact was immediate, and he instantly removed the hardhitting Nathan Astle, who tamely chipped a leading edge to Thorpe at extra cover. Two overs later, a similar fate befell Adam Parore as be lobbed a return catch to the bowler.

With the odd ball turning. Tufnell proved difficult to get away, and he and Croft more or less put a brake on the Kiwi's

Deceleration always creates pressure in limited-over situations, and it was not long before Cairns perished at deep square leg trying to chance his arm. Two overs later, Fleming was stumped after he set off for a leg bye without waiting to see if the ball had eluded Stewart wbo

promptly whipped the hails off. Once Tufnell had finished however, New Zealand were able to take their score to 226. as 66 runs were taken from the last 10 overs.

It was a total that looked as if it might be adequate after Atherton and Nick Knight had fallen in quick succession. That was until the Surrey duo of Alco Siewart and Graham Thorpe got going, their scintillating partnership of 170 suddenly making the target look a for-

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



On a high: Phil Tufnell celebrates his dismissal of Adam Parore in Christchurch yesterday

spective houndary counts, a six and eight fours were identical.

In the end, after a late flurry of wickets. England's victory fell somewhere in between, and with five runs wanted from nine balls. a forceful two ball innings from Croft - who struck Heath Davis for successive fours through the covers - broke the tension.

Having won the toss and batted, New Zealand got off to a storming start, with both Nathan Astle and Bryan Young piercing Atherton's well set off side field. Astle in particular, hit

mality. Both batsmen were in capuisite form, and their re-ticularly through extra cover. Test had been played on, which for for the new lights which cost and be took 12 off one over by Alan Mulially.

Such extravagance seemed a snip in comparison to Robert Croft, whose third over went for 16. Croft prefers to bowl to an off-stump line, but as Atherton brought him on before the fielding restrictions were lifted, he was forced to bowl at leg-stump instead. Croft however, as he has done all winter, persevered,

been a feature of their success at one-day cricket. But if the volume of runs was and his remaining nine overs cost the Weishman just 25 runs. compromised by the pitch, the game was nevertheless a 25,000 Mind you, the conditions sell-out, and people were jammed into every nook and certainly suited spin and the

for for the new lights which cost \$NZ3.5m (£1.5m).

During the interval between innings. Chris Cairns along with television presenter Paul Holmes and a squad of Christchuch's police constables, had their beads shorn in order to raise funds for the Child Cancer Foundation.

Cairns apparently had a "number four" cut, but if he started the match as Samson, he finished as Delilah with Stewart clouting his first ball for a mighty six over long-on. He never re-covered and his four overs cost an exorbitant 25 runs.

Path: 1-28 (Atherion) 2-28 (Knight) 3-198 (Thor-pe) 4-205 (Stewart) S-207 (Crawley) 6-218

(Con.). Did not bet: D Gough, A-II Mulady, P C R Tulnel.

Tufnel: Bowling: Doull 10-0-33-2 (w1) (7-0-25-1 3-0-8-1); Patel 7-0-43-1 (4-0-22-1, 3-0-21 0); Astie 4-0-26-0 (2-0-14-0, 2-0-12-0) Catros 4-0-26-0 (w2) (one spell); Davis 8.5 0-44-3 (w2) (2-0-12-0, 2-0-8-0, 4-5-0-24

sb., Thorpe's 50: 98 min, 71 belts, 6 fours. EMBLAND WIN BY FOUR WICKETS Mean of the match: P C R Turnell. Adjudicator: a F Hastings. Usepires: C E King and II M Quested. TV replay sampline. R 5 Junne. Match referee: P J P Burge.

pet" in the past. Elleray had sent off Ferguson for insulting him to pay costs, estimated at more in a more conventional maitner than £1,000, and was warned about his future conduct. when he refused a penalty claim.

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Atherton the motivator Michael Atherton took Phil play in a one-day international driving his first two deliveries for Tufnell aside for a quiet chat befour to secure victory with sev-

meant it was over seven days old

by the time England's innings

it was a ploy clearly designed to

suit the home side's slow medi-um-pace dribblers Gavin Larsen

and Chris Harris, whose accurate

but paceless deliveries have long

Lancaster Park scoreboard

(4-0-15-0, 6-0-30-0); Tufnell 10-1-22-4, Thorpe 6-0-32-0 (v/1) (one spel ecc)). Progresse 50: 51: rm., 70 bells. 100; 101 min, 1/3 bells. 150: 157 min, 232 bells. 200: 196 min, 289 bells. 480e's 50: 79 min, 56 bells, 6 fours.

As is the case in New Zealand,

took place under lights.

24 Going for a game of golf? 7 Hoodlum creating awful fracas in front of church Mo's to be written out! (8) Fold note into wallet (6) Obscure queen in work by In books, accepting a handout's tantamount to lrish poet (6) Excels in old-fashioned

theatrical productions (8) Salesman's attitude to paich [6) 12 Regular features in which Displaying tough exterior 14 entertainer takes off? (5,6) 15 Appeal to unruly teenag-

after performance (10) Negotiating at a summit secures nothing but suser, being fed up! [5] 17 Ways artist will hreak law pension of certain controls it's the limit (4.5) 18 Ill-shaven characters hang- 3

being lazy (8)

Starts to fortify one's liver, ingesting complex type of acid (5) 19 Girl gives some honest an-Very obvious it's not stained glass" (7.5)

One such as Tom at Oxford, with at least three siblings? (4) Peer under organ loft, but not frequently? (4) Rare book identified in

early morning paper (5,71 13 Racists due to receive pun ishment for insensitivity

This water's unsuitable for a knitted garment (10) Upper parts of figures gen erating some interest, pos-

sibly? (9) 21 Zest shown by American tycoon initially admitted to Japanese game (5) 22 Bathroom item producing

some aromatic lather when inverted (4) Continues to have printing 23 Creature having brown mark on skin (4)

fore vesterday's one-day international. It worked wonders. Tufnell's 4 for 22 was the perfect response to the dope-smoking allegations of two days ago,

setting England up for victory.
"I bad a quiet char with Phil hefore the game and told him to be strong," Atherton said. "He did very well and I thought he coped excellently with the occasion. The crowd were always going to give him a bit of flak but at the end I think they appreciated a very good bowling spell. I'm sure that's why Phil

doffed his cap." music, too, it was certainly a very Atherion confirmed that good atmosphere." Tufnell would not have been included normally, but that the condition of the pitch used for roll during the match, as music blared from loudspeakers all the Test dictated the choice of around the ground to greet the

both spinners. Tufnell said: "It was decided Robert Croft was clearly into play me when we had a look spired by his choice of Tom

after a couple of years' gap.
"There was a good crowd and
I gave them a little wave. There en balls to spare.
"It was absolutely superb. It was some rough to exploit and

got the players and the specta-I think that was always on the tors going." Croft said. "The batsman's minds. Then, when we song certainly inspired me." Graham Thorpe's fine in-nings of 82 also played a major batted, a great partnership be-tween Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe made sure of the game." part as he teamed up with Sur-Atherton was understandrey colleague Alec Stewart for

ably pleased with his side's pera partnership worth 170. formance in general: "We had a little bit of a wobble at the end, "There was a lot of work to be done when I came to the crease," Thorpe said. "But we both struck the ball well and that but it's a good start to the series. "It was also a fun day for the spectators, a big crowd, making a lot of noise. What with all the

took a lot of the pressure off. "Unfortunately we did not quite see it through which put a bit of pressure on the boys, but we got home. I'm pleased because this is my first time play-

ing under lights. We are looking to win all five of these one-day games and play some positive cricket doing so. We aim to learn a lot from

OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC. I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 SOL, and profiled at Mirror Colour Print, St Back issues available from Historie Newspapers, 01988 840370. Friday 21 February 1997 Regardened as a newspaper with the Post Office

Cricket was the new rock 'n'

arrival of each batsman, and

at the wicket, and it was nice to Jones singing "Delilah", cover-

ing around in Southern

20 Essentials of grenadier's

tice board! [7-4]

training you'll find on no-

city (9)

swers (5)



equipment running (7,2)





